
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A large edited collection is never the effort of a single editor. Rather, there are countless people that made it possible. A fascinating story of their patriotic passion and generosity deserves to be captured in these pages. It starts with Rear Admiral Joseph C. Strasser, USN ret, formerly the executive director of the Naval War College Foundation from 2000 to 2006 as well as Naval War College president from 1990 to 1995.¹

Shortly after 9/11, the Naval War College Foundation aggressively launched a capital campaign to establish an endowed academic chair, named the John Nicholas Brown Chair of Counterterrorism in honor of the first foundation president and Rhode Island philanthropist, in order to focus faculty research, teaching, and publication on fighting terrorism. The campaign's patron was the Honorable George H. W. Bush, 41st president of the United States. The honorary cochairmen were the Honorable John McCain, United States senator, and Admiral Jay Johnson, USN ret, chief of naval operations, 1996–2000. For four years, Rear Admiral Strasser devoted his limitless energy and relentless marketing skills to fund the Brown Chair.

By 2006, the endowment had grown substantially owing to scores of individual generous donors. Only then did Rear Admiral Strasser announce the Chair's investiture and I was honored to be chosen the inaugural holder of the Brown Chair. Rear Admiral Strasser and I spoke on several occasions about doing something tangible so that current and potential future donors could actually see the fruits of their generosity. We quickly agreed to create a first-class academic publication. Likewise, the Naval War College provost, Dr. James F. Giblin, Jr., was first to suggest the book tackle the challenge of armed groups as an emerging phenomenon shaping strategic and military thought.

I learned that two academic pioneers had completed a concept paper looking at creating course material dealing with armed groups. Dr. Roy Godson (Georgetown University) and Dr. Richard Shultz (Tufts University) directed the Consortium for the Study of Intelligence, a project of the National Strategy Information Center (NSIC), based in Washington, DC. The 2006 Godson and Shultz concept paper identified a lack of high-quality teaching material and courses devoted to the study of armed groups. This superb study inspired me to seek world-class contributors for a graduate-level textbook to satisfy the paucity of thoughtful and comprehensive material on armed groups that Godson and Shultz recognized.

One after another, I began to attract accomplished authorities in varied disciplines. These included historians, political scientists, anthropologists, psychologists, diplomats, as well as intelligence operators and analysts. Many were already noted authors and

1. Information about the Naval War College Foundation is available at www.nwcfoundation.org/.

specialists who'd written extensively. Others were unpublished but had extraordinary practical experience that deserved print. All were excited about writing new material for the book.

Throughout the process, the Naval War College Foundation fully funded all activity associated with the forthcoming book. Toward that end, I am deeply indebted to the present foundation executive director, Rear Admiral Roger T. Nolan, USNR ret, and the wonderful foundation staff of Mr. Eric Archer, Ms. Melissa Cartee, Ms. Sharyl Jump, Ms. Deborah Marro, and Ms. Petrina Ross.

Meanwhile, because I'm a member of the Naval War College teaching faculty in the National Security Decision Making (NSDM) Department, my seniors gave me the flexibility to pursue this book. In particular, Dr. Joan Johnson-Freese, NSDM chair, allowed me the freedom to accomplish classroom commitments and perform the necessary editing duties for this book. I am particularly indebted to these War College colleagues who assumed extra work to make this book possible: Ms. Peggy Jones, Professor Kevin Kelley, Ms. Isabella Madarang, and Mr. Richard Menard. Nothing is done without skilled legal advice. Commander Jane Brill, staff judge advocate, USN, and Mr. James M. Kasischke, supervisory patent counsel with the Navy's Office of General Counsel, provided invaluable assistance.

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Of course, none of this would have been possible but for the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), where I have worked since 1985. It was the vision of former NCIS director David Brant and current director Thomas Betro, who foresaw the value of assigning a federal special agent to the teaching faculty of the Naval War College. Not only did I bring a unique NCIS practitioner's perspective to the classroom, but NCIS was the beneficiary of my frequent visits to offices worldwide in order to share academia with field agents. Likewise, my own NCIS career is the basis by which I've achieved expertise in national security matters. Therefore, to NCIS I owe my professional credentials.

I also must acknowledge the encouragement of Dr. David Allen Rosenberg, distinguished historian, writer, and professor of maritime strategy, and these present and former War College colleagues for their mentoring, wisdom, and unconditional friendship in helping me navigate the waters of academia: Dr. Henry Charles "Chuck" Bartlett, Professor William Calhoun, Dr. Peter Liotta, Dr. Richmond Lloyd, Dr. William Martel,

Dr. James Miskel, Dr. Mackubin Owens, Jr., Professor Timothy Somes, and Dr. William Turcotte. I will always be your student.

There is a final acknowledgment necessary. As with all published works, the immeasurable time spent on such a project demands family sacrifice. I'm blessed with three understanding children, Sefra, Shale, and Sidney, as well as my wife of 30 years, Gezelle. This volume is my gift of a better world for them.

Thank you all.

Jeffrey H. Norwitz