Chief of Naval Operations
Professional Reading Program

WARFIGHTING FIRST
OPERATE FORWARD
BE READY

NAVEY READING

Read to be ready!
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Navy Reading

Read to be ready!
Hello Shipmates!

You are the most highly trained, well-educated and committed team to ever wear the Navy uniform. Every day you serve and protect. Our nation’s security depends on you. As John Paul Jones said, “men mean more than guns in the rating of a ship”— and it’s still true today. We are built upon our people — the Sailors and Civilians who serve and stand ready to go into harm’s way.

The program described in the following pages is designed to enhance the professional development of our Sailors and Civilians. I encourage you to read these relevant books — they are about our profession. The list is designed to help us learn more about our proud heritage and gain a greater understanding of what it means to be a 21st century Sailor.

Books are being made available throughout the fleet (in lending libraries aboard every ship, submarine, squadron and station throughout the Navy) as printed books and as electronic books. The books are arranged in categories that align with our three Tenets: “Warfighting First,” “Operate Forward,” and “Be Ready.” The books will also be sold via the Navy Exchange (retail stores and online store).

The Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) and I encourage the use of these books in General Military Training (GMT), informal discussion groups, and for consideration wherever Sailors gather. The motto of the CNO-PRP is “Read to Be Ready,” and those four words say it all.

Finally, while the 42 books in the CNO-PRP are all great books, do not limit yourself to reading just the books in this program. Seek out other books that excite or interest you, and take advantage of the lessons that can be learned from the experiences of others.

I look forward to hearing about what you are reading. Don’t hesitate to recommend a book to MCPON, VCNO or myself — I’ll see you out there in the Fleet!

Jonathan W. Greenert
Admiral, U.S. Navy
Chief of Naval Operations
At first glance, the Chief of Naval Operations Professional Reading Program may seem a little intimidating. This guide will help you navigate through the list, which is designed to help you grow as a naval professional.

As you know, the Navy has always focused on physical readiness. Every Sailor knows how to PT and how to prepare for day-to-day duties. The reading program will help prepare you mentally in the same way that push-ups and sit-ups prepare you physically.

As your professional knowledge grows, the Navy will naturally place more trust and confidence in your decision-making abilities. This is where the reading program can really help. We all learn from our life experiences, but what if we could learn from the experiences of others as well? Reading allows us to do just that.

Abraham Lincoln said that reading “is the key to already-solved problems . . . and a facility for successfully pursuing the unsolved ones.” With this in mind, the Navy has collected forty-two books that will help all levels of Navy leaders hone their craft. The books chosen for the list will help Sailors garner a better understanding of war, culture, history, leadership, critical thinking, and management.
### Why should I participate?
Reading may seem a little old-fashioned in this day and age. After all, video games and iPods® offer us easy access to hours of entertainment, and the Internet has literally put the world at our fingertips. However, a book is still a wonderful way to kick back and relax. Books allow us to travel without going anywhere, visit the past and imagine the future, meet heroes and villains, open our minds to new ideas, and escape from the rigors of the world, while at the same time preparing for challenges that lie ahead.

We hope that you will find this program both valuable and genuinely fun. In this program guide you will find brief summaries of all forty-two books in the professional reading program. Please use these descriptions to find the books that most interest you, then plunge right in.

### What should I read?
The books in the CNO Professional Reading Program have been divided into three topic-driven categories. **You should read any book on the list that interests you!**

You should also feel free to read books that are not on the list. The purpose of this program is to help you develop a lifelong habit of reading. The books on this list have been carefully chosen (after a lot of, at times, heated discussion) by a cross section of naval and civilian leaders and scholars. Obviously there are hundreds of other great books that could have been added, but we wanted to keep this list manageable for you. These books are proven selections that, with a broad consensus, our Advisory Group agrees will benefit today’s Navy professional. Give them a try, but by all means, branch out from here when you find a topic you want to learn more about. Again, the goal of this program is to **Read to Be Ready.**

### What if I don’t like to read?
You may not consider yourself a strong reader, but don’t worry, that’s not a problem. The best way to improve any skill is to practice; reading is no different. It doesn’t matter how long it takes to finish a book: it is the process of reading and broadening your professional understanding that counts. Take your time. Comprehension matters, not the time it takes to read. There are no formal tests or evaluations, and this is not a contest. If you choose to read, it will show in the way you conduct yourself as a professional.

It may help if you discuss what you’re reading with your friends and colleagues. Ask your boss what he or she has read and liked, and talk to your subordinates about their reading. Encourage each other. Talking about books and sharing your “lessons-learned” will increase your understanding and make the process of reading a lot more fun for everyone.

### How do I participate?
It will be easy for you to participate in the CNO Professional Reading Program. Every major command will receive a set of books (and in many cases, multiple copies of each book) that you will be able to check out. There are other ways to participate, too: Liberty Centers and base libraries will maintain sets of books, Navy Knowledge Online will provide access to downloadable audio and e-books (once you establish an account as a Navy Knowledge Online user, access the Navy e-Library section of the portal), and the Navy Exchange has agreed to participate as a full partner by selling the books on the list at reduced prices.

One of the most user-friendly features of the program is the robust website, www.navyreading.navy.mil. In addition to detailed book reviews, the site offers links to suggested additional readings, and best of all, an online forum where you can discuss what you have read and can read what others have had to say.

Remember, this program is designed to enhance your professional knowledge through reading, but it should be fun. The way to participate is simply to read. As you browse through this guide you will surely find something that sparks your interest, then just visit your unit library, log on to www.navyreading.navy.mil, or just look for the Navy Reading logo in your local Navy Exchange and give a book a try. It’s time to **Read to Be Ready!**

— Program Managers
This Essential category, Warfighting First book provides an engaging account of the War of 1812. At the outbreak of the War of 1812, America’s prospects looked dismal. It was clear that the primary battlefield would be the open ocean but America’s war fleet, only twenty ships strong, faced a practiced British navy of more than a thousand men-of-war. Still, through a combination of nautical deftness and sheer bravado, the American navy managed to take the fight to the British and turn the tide of the war: on the Great Lakes, in the Atlantic, and even in the eastern Pacific. In 1812: The Navy’s War, prizewinning historian George C. Daughan tells the thrilling story of how a handful of heroic captains and their stalwart crews overcame spectacular odds to lead the country to victory against the world’s greatest imperial power. A stunning contribution to military and national history, 1812: The Navy’s War is the first complete account in more than a century of how the U.S. Navy rescued the fledgling nation and secured America’s future. This outstanding “Warfighting First” category book represents an important addition to the CNO Professional Reading Program in recognition of the bicentennial celebration of the war it recounts. 1812: The Navy’s War is a “must read” for all Sailors.

Cyber War
The Next Threat to National Security
by Richard A. Clarke and Robert K. Knake

This Essential category, Warfighting First book details the nature and scope of the cyber threat to U.S. national security through very readable technical descriptions and gripping real-world examples of cyber attacks. Cyber War is a powerful book about technology, government, and military strategy; about criminals, spies, soldiers, and hackers. It explains clearly and convincingly what cyber war is, how cyber weapons work, and how vulnerable we are as a nation and as individuals to the vast and looming web of cyber criminals. The author, Richard A. Clarke, is an internationally recognized expert on security and served in various capacities under four Presidents. This important book provides a comprehensive overview of one of the greatest national security threats that America confronts today. This selection supports Department of Defense and U.S. Navy priorities for countering cyber warfare.
This Essential category, Warfighting First book tells the compelling tale of the late Navy SEAL, LT Michael Murphy. A young man of great character, he is the subject of Naval Special Warfare courses on leadership, and an Arleigh Burke–class guided missile destroyer, naval base, school, post office, ballpark, and hospital emergency room have all been named in his honor. In his bestselling book Lone Survivor (formerly listed on the CNO Professional Reading Program), Marcus Luttrell, the only survivor of Operation Red Wing, called Michael “the best officer I ever knew, an iron-souled warrior of colossal, almost unbelievable courage in the face of the enemy.” SEAL of Honor tells the story of Michael’s life and how he came to be a man of selfless courage and honor. The story of LT Murphy offers a sterling example of Navy core values lived out in his life, service, and sacrifice. This gripping and often emotionally moving book honors all who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the war against terrorism.

Wake of the Wahoo
by Forest J. Sterling

This Essential category, Warfighting First book was an almost-forgotten World War II classic that has been brought back into the spotlight by the CNO Professional Reading Program. From the attack on Pearl Harbor to her last and fatal voyage, this is the heroic true story of America’s most daring World War II submarine, as told by one of the only surviving members of her crew, retired Chief Petty Officer Forest J. Sterling. The USS Wahoo (SS-238) was the most successful American submarine in the World War II Pacific Fleet. This riveting account of five combat patrols of the Wahoo captures life aboard a World War II submarine with a witty and inspiring deck-plates perspective of the boat’s Yeoman (YN1 Sterling). The superb leadership and tactical acumen of the Wahoo’s famed Commanding Officer, Commander Dudley “Mush” Morton and Executive Officer, Commander Dick O’Kane are vividly illustrated in Sterling’s book. Wake of the Wahoo is an unforgettable and invaluable read.
This Essential category, Warfighting First book tells the story of naval operations in the modern era. More than a decade after the United States forged a diverse international coalition to drive Saddam Hussein’s invading forces out of Kuwait, the vital role seapower played in that mission has received far less recognition than the land and air campaigns. Yet U.S. Navy surface ships and submarines launched hundreds of cruise-missile attacks against Iraqi targets throughout the war, and carriers in surrounding waters sent air strikes deep into the enemy’s territory. The battleships Missouri and Wisconsin bombarded hostile targets while U.S. Sailors fought naval actions beside U.S. Army and Royal Navy helicopter crews. SEAL missions, global sealift actions, mine countermeasures, and operations in support of the economic embargo all contributed to this complex joint war effort that became one of the most successful campaigns in American military history. This book details those naval operations and includes candid observations of leadership effectiveness, interservice relations, and methods of command and control. As a study of modern joint and combined warfare, this work, originally produced by the Naval Historical Center, is unsurpassed. It captures the symphonic complexity of joint ops, and illustrates how successful they can be when the elements all dovetail accordingly. It is an especially valuable work for the Navy readership in that it looks at the combined-warfare scenario through a naval lens.

This Essential category, Warfighting First book uses hundreds of hours of exclusive interviews with top officers in Iraq and extraordinary on-the-ground reportage to document the inside story of the Iraq War since late 2005. The Gamble offers news-breaking information, revealing behind-the-scenes disagreements between top commanders. We learn that almost every single officer in the chain of command fought against implementing the surge. Many of General Petraeus’s closest advisers went to Iraq feeling extremely pessimistic, doubting that the surge would have any effect. The Gamble examines the congressional hearings through the eyes of Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker, and their views of the questions posed by the 2008 presidential candidates. Thomas E. Ricks’ stunning conclusion, stated in the last line of the book, is that “the events for which the Iraq war will be remembered by us and by the world have not yet happened.” This title provides a comprehensive and highly readable presentation of how a complex problem in Iraq was addressed by U.S. military and political leaders.
Monsoon
by Robert D. Kaplan

This Essential category, Operate Forward book offers a pivotal examination of the countries known as “Monsoon Asia,” which include India, Pakistan, China, Indonesia, Burma, Oman, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Tanzania. Bestselling author Robert D. Kaplan shows how crucial this dynamic area has become to American power. It is here that the fight for democracy, energy independence, and religious freedom will be lost or won, and it is here that American foreign policy must concentrate if the United States is to remain relevant in an ever-changing world. From the Horn of Africa to the Indonesian archipelago and beyond, Kaplan exposes the effects of population growth, climate change, and extremist politics on this unstable region, demonstrating why Americans can no longer afford to ignore this important area of the world. This informative and engaging book truly is essential professional reading for those serving in the 21st-century U.S. Navy.

Crisis of Islam
Holy War and Unholy Terror
by Bernard Lewis

This Essential category, Operate Forward book examines the historical roots of the resentments that dominate the Islamic world and that all too often have manifested in acts of terrorism. Expanded from an award-winning New Yorker article, The Crisis of Islam looks at the theological origins of political Islam and takes the reader through the rise of militant Islam in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Iran, examining the impact of radical Wahhabi proselytizing, and Saudi oil money, on the rest of the Islamic world. The Crisis of Islam ranges widely across thirteen centuries of history, but in particular it charts the key events of the 20th century leading up to the violent confrontations of today: the creation of the state of Israel, the Cold War, the Iranian revolution, the defeat of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan, the Gulf War, and 9/11. While hostility toward the West has a long history in the lands of Islam, its current concentration on America is new. So too is the cult of the suicide bomber. Brilliantly disentangling the crosscurrents of Middle Eastern history from the rhetoric of its manipulators, author Bernard Lewis helps the reader understand the increasingly dogmatic rejection of modernity by many in the Muslim world in favor of a return to a sacred past. This book is essential reading for anyone who wants to know what Osama bin Laden represented and why his murderous message resonated so widely in the Islamic world.

For achieving a greater cultural understanding of the radical Islamist, an insidious and relentless foe, this concise, eye-opening book is a must read in the post-9/11 world.
Neptune’s Inferno
The U.S. Navy at Guadalcanal
by James D. Hornfischer

This Essential category, Operate Forward book is at once the most epic and the most intimate account ever written of the contest for control of the seaways of the Solomon Islands. Those who enjoyed The Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors, also in the CNO Professional Reading Program, will find Neptune’s Inferno equally impressive. Neptune’s Inferno details the grim, protracted campaign for Guadalcanal that has long been heralded as a Marine victory. Now, with his powerful portrait of the Navy’s sacrifice—three sailors died at sea for every man lost ashore—Hornfischer tells for the first time the full story of the Navy men who fought in the deadly waters of “Ironbottom Sound.” In addition to the rich Navy history and heritage that is contained in this book, there are many insightful lessons on leadership and the high cost of tactical failures in combat. This gripping book offers valuable lessons for Sailors and Officers of all pay grades.

Red Star Over the Pacific
by Toshi Yoshihara and James R. Holmes

This Essential category, Operate Forward book assesses how the rise of Chinese sea power will affect U.S. maritime strategy in Asia. Combining a close knowledge of Asia and an ability to tap Chinese-language sources with naval combat experience and expertise in sea-power theory, the authors argue that China is laying the groundwork for a sustained challenge to American primacy in maritime Asia. To defend this hypothesis they look back to Alfred Thayer Mahan’s sea-power theories, now popular with the Chinese. The book considers how strategic thought about the sea shapes Beijing’s deliberations and compares China’s geostrategic predicament to that of the Kaiser’s Germany a century ago. It examines the Chinese navy’s operational concepts, tactics, and capabilities and appraises China’s ballistic-missile submarine fleet. The authors conclude that unless Washington adapts, China will present a challenge to America’s strategic position in Asia. This selection supports Department of Defense and U.S. Navy priorities for increased focus on the Pacific Rim. Rich with historical examples and superb scholarship, Red Star Over the Pacific is a thoughtful and informative analysis on the rise of Chinese naval power.
Execute Against Japan
by Joel Holwitt

This Essential category, Operate Forward book was written by active-duty Submarine Warfare Officer, LT Joel Holwitt. Less than five hours after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, a telegram from the U.S. Chief of Naval Operations ordered, "Execute against Japan unrestricted air and submarine warfare." Mere hours after the attack the United States abandoned its longstanding adherence to freedom of the seas, under which commercial vessels were immune from attack. From that moment, the American war effort in the Pacific would target not only military assets, but all Japanese shipping. This surprising shift in U.S. policy expanded the limits of warfare in the Pacific. Execute Against Japan offers a new understanding of U.S. military policy during World War II. This book offers valuable lessons on the interplay of law, diplomacy, politics, and military doctrine and strategy in the conduct of war.

The Man from Pakistan (also made available as Fallout)
by Catherine Collins and Douglas Frantz

In this Essential category, Operate Forward book investigative journalists Douglas Frantz and Catherine Collins tell an alarming tale of international intrigue through the eyes of the European and American officials who suspected Pakistani nuclear scientist A. Q. Khan, tracked him, and ultimately shut him down, but only after the nuclear genie was out of the bottle. This well-researched book tells the story of how A. Q. Khan managed to steal enough nuclear secrets to give Pakistan atomic weapons and then to go into business selling atomic secrets to Libya, Iraq, Iran, North Korea, and others. This book provides an excellent foundation of knowledge for one of the greatest threats confronting the United States in the 21st century. It explains the origin of the emerging nuclear proliferation threats in North Korea and Iran as well as technical descriptions of the process of manufacturing nuclear materials into weapons-grade materials. The Man from Pakistan* offers valuable lessons for Navy personnel who must confront this threat as they operate forward in an ever-more-dangerous environment.

*Note: Due to sparse availability of "The Man from Pakistan," a more recent book, "Fallout" (Free Press, 2011), by Catherine Collins and Douglas Frantz, may be used as a substitute.
**Time Management from the Inside Out**

*The Foolproof Plan for Taking Control of Your Schedule and Your Life*

*by Julie Morgenstern*

This Essential category, Be Ready book is an updated, expanded version of the definitive guide to managing and freeing up that most precious of commodities—time. Applying her trademark from-the-inside-out approach, author Julie Morgenstern sets a new standard for the time-management ideal. Her system has helped countless readers uncover their mental/emotional stumbling blocks and strengths, and cultivate a time-management methodology that suits individual needs. By applying the prescribed three-step program—Analyze, Strategize, Attack—readers of *Time Management from the Inside Out* will find more room in life for work, family, self-improvement, or whatever is deemed most important. Time management is a learnable skill, and in this completely revised edition of her work, Morgenstern provides the ultimate tools to combine, delegate, and eliminate unnecessary tasks; put technology to work; and, above all, stop procrastinating, once and for all. This revised edition includes a new chapter on getting started in the method, new “time maps” for people with irregular schedules, new four-, eight-, and twelve-week program guides for improving time-management skills, and a fully updated resource guide.

Time management, important for anybody, is all the more important for those who serve in uniform, and this, the bible of time management, has the game plan that can get the reader’s career on track and keep it there.

**The Morality of War**

*by Brian Orend*

This Essential category, Be Ready book provides the modern Navy warrior with an accessible and important reference to draw upon in the planning and execution of combat operations. *The Morality of War* thoughtfully analyzes every military conflict of recent decades as a means of illustrating the evolution of just war theory. The vivid historical examples from past wars and more recent conflicts in Bosnia, Iraq, and Afghanistan make this an intellectually engaging and important book for our age. *The Morality of War* is considered by many warriors and scholars to be the most accessible and comprehensive work on the important questions pertaining to morality and war. *The Morality of War* is an excellent introduction into just war theory and supports Department of Defense priorities for Counterterrorism and Information Warfare.
In the Shadow of Greatness
by Joshua Welle, John Ennis, Katherine Kranz, and Graham Plaster

This Essential category, Be Ready book provides a glimpse into the lives of some of the post-9/11 generation of warriors. The stories of the Naval Academy Class of 2002 are representative of an entire generation of sailors and officers that volunteered for service with the knowledge that they would serve in combat. Each story depicted in this book provides a glimpse into the lives of modern-day military officers who were faced with unique challenges. Their stories bring to light the trials of war and reveal a world most outside of the military do not understand. Refreshingly candid, their narratives take readers on a journey from Annapolis to the far corners of the world to experience operations at sea, on the land, and in the skies.

Prophetically inscribed on the Class of 2002’s Naval Academy graduation rings are the words “in harm’s way.” In the Shadow of Greatness pays tribute to classmates who paid the ultimate price for their nation within years after graduation. Mothers of the fallen reflect on their children’s loyalty to their country, contributors provide visceral accounts of courage under fire, and others recount hardship in unexpected places, beyond the sands of Iraq and Afghanistan. As wars in Iraq and Afghanistan subside, those who depart the service are seeking a higher purpose at home. Read their stories of enduring commitment to country as they return from the battlefield and become leaders out of uniform.

Wired for War
by P. W. Singer

This Essential category, Be Ready book explores the greatest revolution in military affairs since the atom bomb: the dawn of robotic warfare. Noted author P. W. Singer argues that we are on the cusp of a massive shift in military technology that threatens to make real the stuff of I, Robot and The Terminator. Blending historical evidence with interviews of an amazing cast of characters, Singer shows how technology is changing not just how wars are fought, but also the politics, economics, laws, and the ethics that surround war itself. Traveling from the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan to modern-day “skunk works” in the midst of suburbia, Singer illustrates that the robotics revolution has arrived. Wired for War is “must read” for all modern-day warriors who need to understand the impact of this revolution and how it is changing the way we operate and fight.
A Sailor’s History of the U.S. Navy  
by Thomas J. Cutler

This Essential category, Be Ready book is highly readable and offers a fresh approach to naval history. Adopted by the U.S. Navy for issue to all new Sailors, A Sailor’s History vividly and excitingly brings to life the events that have shaped and inspired the Navy of today. Its perspective is thoroughly and decidedly democratic, highlighting the role of all Sailors—from seaman to admiral. Rather than focus entirely on such naval icons as Jones, Decatur, and Nimitz, as most histories tend to do, author Thomas J. Cutler (a former gunner’s mate and retired lieutenant commander) brings to the forefront the contributions of enlisted people, such as Quartermaster Peter Williams, who steered the ironclad Monitor into history, and Hospital Corpsman Tayinikia Campbell, who saved lives on the USS Cole after the terrorist attack in Yemen. The book’s structure is unique; rather than a straightforward chronological arrangement, the work is grouped thematically in sections named after the Navy’s core principles of honor, courage, and commitment; its traditions of “Don’t Tread on Me” and “Don’t Give Up the Ship”; and other significant aspects. The result is a unique account that captures Navy heritage and history, that provides inspiration as well as information, and that celebrates that most essential element of the Navy’s history: the Sailor.

More than any other book in this program, this work is directly and specifically targeted to the enlisted Sailor, giving the reader a solid foundation in the colorful history of the U.S. Navy, instilling pride in the rich traditions that today’s Sailors are carrying forward.

Navigating the Seven Seas  
by Melvin G. Williams Sr. and Melvin G. Williams Jr.

This Essential category, Be Ready book showcases important leadership lessons—the seven Cs (a double entendre of the book’s title). The authors are the first African American father and son to have served at the top in the U.S. Navy. In addition to the engaging biographical content of the book are the Seven Cs of Leadership: Character, Courage, Competence, Commitment, Caring, Community, and Communicating, which are explained through vivid examples that will serve to guide Sailors and Officers to a successful life and Navy career. The father and son authors share inspirational lessons learned that cover all areas of the leadership spectrum, from the makings of a Command Master Chief to the makings and distinct achievement of a Flag Officer. Navy heritage embraces both men’s contributions, since both father and son had to open several doors that were closed to them due to their race. Melvin G. Williams Sr.’s ability to make Fleet improvements and positive recommendations for others was passed on to his own son, who served as Commander, U.S. 2nd Fleet and obtained the rank of Vice Admiral.
Six Frigates
by Ian W. Toll

This Recommended category, Warfighting First book is a well researched and insightful account of the origin of the United States Navy after the American Revolution through the War of 1812, focusing on the authorization, construction, and battles of the six frigates that became the vanguard of the standing navy. The author explores how the political philosophies of early American leaders shaped the future development of the country and its navy. The book examines how domestic and foreign events forced many leaders to rethink their views on both the direction of the country and the shape of its armed forces. Toll provides a refreshingly honest history of the erratic course of the nation and brings to light the cross-purposes, incompetence, and self-serving actions that are not discussed in the less gritty accounts. The book is not merely a story of a young nation’s policy debates. The author follows the naval actions of the original six frigates through engagements with the day’s superpowers (France and Britain) and the Barbary Pirates. Toll covers these ships’ successes and failures with detail and realism that is often compared to novelist Patrick O’Brian’s account of the British Navy during roughly the same era.

With the U.S. Navy reevaluating its future direction, this uncompromising history shows how a nation’s view of a rapidly changing world and the best and worst of human nature can shape the size, role, and mission of a navy.

Tried by War
Abraham Lincoln as Commander in Chief
by James M. McPherson

This Recommended category, Warfighting First book is an outstanding case study on leadership and the roots of America’s tradition of civil-military relations. Pulitzer Prize–winning author James M. McPherson provides a rare, fresh take on one of the most enigmatic figures in American history—Abraham Lincoln. Tried by War offers a revelatory portrait of leadership during the greatest crisis our nation has ever endured. Suspenseful and inspiring, this is the story of how Lincoln, with almost no previous military experience before entering the White House, assumed the powers associated with the role of commander in chief, and through his strategic insight and will to fight changed the course of the war and saved the Union. Tried by War provides an enjoyable read with important lessons on civil-military relations, leadership, and decision making at the strategic level.
Shackleton’s Way
Leadership Lessons from the Great Antarctic Explorer
by Margot Morrell and Stephanie Capparell

This Recommended category, Warfighting First book focuses on the intrepid explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton, who was once dubbed “the greatest leader that ever came on God’s earth, bar none,” for saving the lives of the nearly thirty men who ended up stranded with him in the Antarctic for the better part of two years. To this day, the actions of this great adventurer have made him a model for superior leadership and successful crisis management. Shackleton’s Way draws from historical anecdote, the diaries of the men in his crew, and Shackleton’s own writing to delineate his leadership style for the modern business world. Coauthored by two veteran business writers and graced with rare photos as well as stunning images by renowned ship photographer Frank Hurley, this is a handbook to help today’s leaders follow Shackleton’s shining example.

Shackleton’s Way has been lauded for its ability to seamlessly translate Shackleton’s leadership genius into lessons specifically applicable to today’s Sailor, working as a roadmap for military leadership, which is why this work is of value to anyone pursuing a naval career. Those reaching the level of Leading Petty Officer now find themselves at a whole new level, one involving a significantly higher leadership responsibility. And, as one critic put it, Shackleton’s Way is “an important addition to any leader’s library.”

In this Recommended category, Warfighting First book, you will see why Winston Churchill was not only one of the towering statesmen of the 20th century (indeed, to many he remains “the Man of the Century”); he also happened to be a masterful writer as well. His epic six-volume history of World War II ranks among the greatest historical works ever penned—both for the uniquely top-level insider perspectives of its author and for its brilliant, elegant prose. It all begins here with The Gathering Storm, which chronicles the fate of Europe in the aftermath of World War I, and how international complacency allowed Hitler and the Nazis to rise from the ashes of a defeated Germany to threaten the world. Churchill, of course, was at the time a voice crying in the wilderness. His warnings of impending Nazi belligerence went unheeded for too long, and his frustration at it all comes through in the retelling, giving the narrative even more of an edge. He himself summed up the book’s theme succinctly: “How the English-speaking people through their unwisdom, carelessness, and good nature allowed the wicked to rearm.” And the New York Times summed up this work’s value beautifully: “It is our immense good fortune that a man who presided over this crisis in history is able to turn the action he lived through into enduring literature.” All five subsequent volumes—Their Finest Hour, The Grand Alliance, The Hinge of Fate, Closing the Ring, and Triumph and Tragedy—are equally highly recommended.

The Second World War, Volume 1: The Gathering Storm
by Winston Churchill

eCopy, 256 Pages
Pub. Date: August 2002
Publisher: Penguin Group

eCopy, 752 Pages
Pub. Date: May 1986
Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Company
The heroes of this Recommended category, Warfighting First book are the crew members of an Arleigh Burke destroyer and the civilian technicians operating an unmanned robot submersible to stop a rogue actor with nuclear weapons. Author Jeff Edwards is a retired Navy Chief Petty Officer and Antisubmarine Warfare specialist. His military techno-thriller novels have been awarded the Admiral Nimitz Award, the Reader’s Choice Award, the Clive Cussler Award, and the American Author’s Medal. The Seventh Angel blends page-turning action and compelling characters with an informative history on the development of rockets, ICBMs, and the challenges of Ballistic Missile Defense. Edwards has his facts straight on military technology and tactics. He has a true gift for creating stories that keep his readers on the edge of their seats. This is an enjoyable and surprisingly informative book for Sailors of all paygrades.

To the Shores of Tripoli
The Birth of the U.S. Navy and Marines
by A. B. C. Whipple

This Recommended category, Warfighting First book focuses on the Barbary War, an often overlooked yet significant and prophetic event in U.S. history, that was America’s first battle against an Arab despot and President Thomas Jefferson’s first major challenge to U.S. foreign policy. A. B. C. Whipple provides a vivid account of Jefferson’s decision to meet force with force rather than trade arms for hostages with Barbary Coast rulers who held the crew of an American ship. He describes how the new President’s order to send a squadron of warships to the Mediterranean while Congress was in recess prompted the first major debate on the warmaking powers of a U.S. President and the establishment of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps to replace the disabled Continental Navy. Whipple’s rousing narrative is filled with fascinating personalities. In addition to Jefferson there is Edward Preble, who commanded the first naval forces into battle; a bold young Stephen Decatur; a tyrannical bashaw; a U.S. Army captain who comes across like a Lawrence of Arabia prototype as he marches his starving foreign legion 500 miles across the desert to invade Tripoli; a tough Marine lieutenant who played the violin; and a host of potentates and politicians, sailors and soldiers of fortune, hostages, and harem women.
This Recommended category, Warfighting First focuses on the future. What increasingly affects all of us, whether professional planners or individuals preparing for a better future, is not the tangibles of life—bottom-line numbers, for instance—but the intangibles: our hopes and fears, our beliefs and dreams. Only stories—scenarios—and our ability to visualize different kinds of futures adequately capture these intangibles. In The Art of the Long View (now for the first time in paperback), Peter Schwartz outlines the "scenaric" approach, giving you the tools for developing a strategic vision within your operational sphere. Schwartz, the president of Global Business Network, describes the new techniques originally developed within Royal/Dutch Shell, based on many of his firsthand scenario exercises with the world’s leading institutions and companies, including the White House, the EPA, BellSouth, PG&E, and the International Stock Exchange.

Hopes and fears affect us in planning for a better future. The scenario approach gives you the ability to visualize different kinds of futures. This book gives you the tools for developing a strategic vision.
This Recommended category, Operate Forward book is a powerfully argued, objective history of the modern U.S. Navy that explains how the Navy defined its purpose in the century after 1890. It relates in detail how the Navy formed and reformed its doctrine of naval force and operations around a concept articulated by Captain Alfred Thayer Mahan. There were, however, many years, notably in the 1920s and after World War II, when there was no enemy at sea, when the Navy could not count on support for an expensive peacetime battle fleet. What, then, did the Navy do? It shrewdly adapted old ideas to new technology. To reclaim its position in a general war, and avoid being transformed into a mere transport service, the Navy (with the Marine Corps) proved it was capable of power projection onto the land through seaborne bombers armed with nuclear weapons and by building a ballistic missile-launching submarine force. The growth of a Soviet sea force in the 1970s and 1980s revived the moribund sea power doctrine, but the Navy’s bid for strategic leadership failed in the face of the war-avoidance policy of the Cold War. With the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the Navy finally retired Mahan’s doctrine that the defeat of the enemy fleet was the Navy’s primary objective. This book is the history of how a war-fighting organization responded—in doctrine, strategy, operations, preparedness, self-awareness, and force structure—to radical changes in political circumstance.

One Hundred Years of Sea Power
The U.S. Navy, 1890–1990
by George W. Baer

The Elephant and the Dragon
The Rise of India and China and What It Means for All of Us
by Robyn Meredith

This Recommended category, Operate Forward book is an urgent exploration of the earth-tilting emergence of India and China on the world stage, and an the essential guide to understanding how India and China are reshaping our world. In a compelling mix of history and on-the-ground reporting, a veteran journalist cuts through the alarmist hype surrounding globalization, off-shoring, and layoffs, untangling the complex web of business, politics, and culture that entwines India, China, and the West. In lively prose, the author, who writes on India and China for Forbes, examines the looming shadows of Gandhi and Mao that help explain not just the past, but also how the future is unfolding for India and China. It is one of hyper-connected world trade that, whether carried by container ships or fiber-optic cables, promises to reshape the world. Her book contends that China’s development will continue to outpace India’s and that wealth transferred overseas will benefit the United States in the long run. The author breaks new ground in outlining how Americans—business leaders, workers, politicians, even parents—can understand the vast changes coming and thrive in the age of The Elephant and the Dragon, and highlights the possible lessons in transformation that may be applied to the United States.
In this Recommended category, Operate Forward book, we learn that with the world’s largest population, largest army, and fastest-growing economy, China is now in the process of building a large modern navy to assure its status as Asia’s predominant power. Yet, to date, the West has had sorely limited knowledge of what could become its greatest naval opponent. This major study—the first in more than fifteen years—provides timely, authoritative information about China’s developing navy and its quest for power. The author, a professor at the National War College and a retired captain in the U.S. Navy, first helps the reader understand China’s 2,000-year-old maritime tradition. He then examines China’s extensive territorial claims at sea and follows up with a path-breaking description of the nation’s increasing dependence on energy sources mined from the ocean floor. At the book’s core is an examination of China’s navy in detail, its organization as well as the submarines, ships, and airplanes that make up its seagoing force. The book also discusses the personnel who man the growing fleet and Beijing’s efforts to shape them into professionally capable and politically reliable officers and sailors. Of key interest are China’s future plans for its navy, including doctrine and operations. China’s naval developments are explained within the context of national goals and the international arena.

This Recommended category, Operate Forward classic novel enjoyed much critical acclaim and commercial success when it was first published in 1962. The winner of the coveted Harper Prize, it was on the New York Times bestseller list for seven months and was made into a popular motion picture. Set in China on the eve of revolution, the book tells the story of an old U.S. Navy gunboat, the San Pablo, and her dedicated crew of “Sand Pebbles” on patrol in the far reaches of the Yangtze River to show the flag and protect American missionaries and businessmen from bandits. The arrival of machinist’s mate Jake Holman, a maverick and loner, dramatically alters the lives of the crew and of the people they have come to save. It is the story of old loyalties versus new values, of violence and tenderness, tragedy and humor, and it engages the reader from the first line to the last. The Sand Pebbles takes place on the Yangtze in 1920s China, yet it is extremely applicable to the naval reader of today: It involves a riverine mission in which cultural sensitivity to the indigenous populace is crucial. As the Navy renews its riverine commitment, The Sand Pebbles achieves a relevance anew, in addition to its value as a timeless classic of U.S. Navy literature.

The Great Wall at Sea
by Bernard D. Cole

In this Recommended category, Operate Forward book, we learn that with the world’s largest population, largest army, and fastest-growing economy, China is now in the process of building a large modern navy to assure its status as Asia’s predominant power. Yet, to date, the West has had sorely limited knowledge of what could become its greatest naval opponent. This major study—the first in more than fifteen years—provides timely, authoritative information about China’s developing navy and its quest for power. The author, a professor at the National War College and a retired captain in the U.S. Navy, first helps the reader understand China’s 2,000-year-old maritime tradition. He then examines China’s extensive territorial claims at sea and follows up with a path-breaking description of the nation’s increasing dependence on energy sources mined from the ocean floor. At the book’s core is an examination of China’s navy in detail, its organization as well as the submarines, ships, and airplanes that make up its seagoing force. The book also discusses the personnel who man the growing fleet and Beijing’s efforts to shape them into professionally capable and politically reliable officers and sailors. Of key interest are China’s future plans for its navy, including doctrine and operations. China’s naval developments are explained within the context of national goals and the international arena.

The Sand Pebbles
by Richard McKenna

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The Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors
The Extraordinary World War II Story of the U.S. Navy’s Finest Hour
by James Hornfischer

This Recommended category, Operate Forward book tells the incredible story of the men who fought in the Battle of Samar in October 1944, and presents a David-and-Goliath sea fight filled with action elements: Navy pilots attacking with makeshift weaponry and selfless bravery, a veteran commander improvising tactics not found in the conventional playbook, and young American Sailors rising to an impossible challenge. The book takes us into the heart and mind of an iron-willed, self-made executive officer leading his men through a sea of carnage and two hellish days and nights clinging to survival amid oil, blood, sharks, and madness. And it dramatizes how the overmatched U.S. force, enduring the loss of five gallant ships and nearly a thousand brave men, turned a certain crushing defeat into a momentous victory that would lead to the final surrender of America’s ruthless imperial foe. At Samar, the American destroyers and escort carriers slugged it out with a much larger Japanese force, as part of the larger Battle of Leyte Gulf. Filled with riveting detail and based on the author’s extensive interviews and correspondence with veterans, unpublished eyewitness accounts, declassified documents, and rare Japanese sources, The Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors is an unforgettable story that captures the essence of heroism, the power of loyalty, and the way in which the unadorned truth is sometimes more stirring than legend itself.

On the Origins of War
And the Preservation of Peace
by Donald Kagan

This Recommended category, Operate Forward book acknowledges that war has been a fact of life for millennia on end. By following the common threads that connect the ancient clashes between Athens and Sparta and between Rome and Carthage with the the First and Second World Wars and the Cuban Missile Crisis, acclaimed historian Donald Kagan reveals fresh and illuminating insights into the nature of war—and of peace. His lucid accounts help alert the reader to the dangers of complacency and serve as a clarion call to preparedness in times of peace. Ranging across 2,500 years of history, this fascinating work shows how “peace does not keep itself.” Part history, part philosophy, this is a book about which former Secretary of State George Schultz said: “By now it is clear that the so-called end of history really has meant the return of history, with a vengeance. Recent events regrettably confirm that warfare is inherent to any system of world affairs yet imagined, so we better do all we can to prevent it. Professor Kagan’s impressive volume presents thoughts that are timely, intellectually deep, and just about indispensable.”
This Recommended category, Operate Forward book is considered by many to be the best war memoir ever written. Ken Burns, documentary filmmaker of the PBS series The War, said it best when describing With the Old Breed: “In all the literature on the Second World War, there is not a more honest, realistic or moving memoir than Eugene Sledge’s. This is the real deal, the real war: unvarnished, brutal, without a shred of sentimentality or false patriotism, a profound primer on what it actually was like to be in that war. It is a classic that will outlive all the armchair generals’ safe accounts of—not the “good war”—but the worst war ever.” This often emotionally heart-wrenching and honest memoir of war fills an important spot in the CNO Professional Reading Program for the current generation of combat warriors.

**Aircraft Carriers at War**
A Personal Retrospective of Korea, Vietnam, and the Soviet Confrontation
by James L. Holloway III
ADM James Holloway describes this Recommended category, Operate Forward book as a contemporary perspective of the events, decisions, and outcomes in the history of the Cold War—Korea, Vietnam, and the Soviet confrontation—that shaped today’s U.S. Navy and its principal ships-of-the-line, the large-deck, nuclear-powered aircraft carriers. The admiral is exceptionally well qualified to write such an expansive history. A prominent player in Cold War events, Holloway served as a carrier pilot in Korea, commander of the Seventh Fleet in Vietnam, CNO in the mid-1970s, and as a civilian presidential appointee to various investigative groups. He casts an experienced eye at defining combat, tactics, and strategies of the Cold War abroad and at home. Holloway’s first-person narrative of combat conveys hostile fire’s tense atmosphere and the urgency of command decisions. His descriptions of White House conversations with Presidents and of war-room meetings with the Joint Chiefs offer a revealing look at the decision-making process. Few will forget his comments about the sobering effect of planning for nuclear warfare and training and leading a squadron of pilots whose mission was to drop a nuclear bomb. Both wise and entertaining, this book helps readers understand the aircraft carrier’s full significance. Additionally, it stands as a testament to those who fought in the Cold War and to the leadership that guided the United States through a perilous period of history while avoiding the Armageddon of a nuclear war.

**With the Old Breed**
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by James L. Holloway III
eCopy, 352 Pages
Pub. Date: May 2007
Publisher: Naval Institute Press

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by Eugene B. Sledge
eCopy, 352 Pages
Pub. Date: May 2007
Publisher: Presidio Press/Random House
Two Souls Indivisible
by James S. Hirsch

This Recommended category, Be Ready book tells the inspiring story of an amazing, unlikely friendship, formed in one of the most hideous places imaginable—a North Vietnamese POW camp that prisoners nicknamed “the Zoo.” Prisoner of war Fred Cherry, an Air Force pilot, was the first black officer captured by the North Vietnamese. Prisoner of war Porter Halyburton, a Navy pilot, was a Southern bigot. The North Vietnamese threw these two incompatible individuals into the same stinking cell, convinced that their mutual animosity would lead them each to crack. But Cherry and Halyburton overcame their distrust and dislike for each other and ended up being each other’s salvation. When Halyburton first saw him, Cherry was a wreck. One arm, damaged in his plane crash, hung uselessly at his side. He hadn’t bathed in weeks, and he could barely walk. In his own mind, Cherry was steeling himself for death. Halyburton was also weakening, emotionally battered from the interrogations and isolation that his sheltered life had not prepared him for. He had to learn how to endure, or he would become one of the incoherent wraiths who haunted the Zoo.

Halyburton and Cherry became legendary among fellow POWs for the singular friendship that enabled them to overcome prodigious suffering and unspeakable torture. Author James Hirsch weaves through this account a surprising, sometimes shocking view of the toll these men’s captivity took on their loved ones. Often inspiring, sometimes heartbreaking, Two Souls Indivisible shows how trust and hope can cheat death, and how good people can achieve greatness in hellish circumstances.

Integrity
by Stephen L. Carter

This Recommended category, Be Ready book examines why the virtue of integrity holds such sway over the American imagination. By weaving together insights from philosophy, theology, history, and law, along with examples drawn from current events and a dose of personal experience, author Stephen Carter offers a vision of integrity that has implications for everything from marriage and politics to professional football. He discusses the difficulties involved in trying to legislate integrity as well as the possibilities for teaching it. Integrity is an engaging, sometimes challenging and provocative examination of a human value that is essential to Navy Core Values.
This Recommended category, Be Ready book takes the radical position that great companies can fail precisely because they do everything right. Harvard professor Clayton M. Christensen demonstrates why outstanding companies that had their competitive antennae up, listened astutely to customers, and invested aggressively in new markets still lost their market leadership when confronted with disruptive changes in technology and market structure. And he tells how to avoid a similar fate. Christensen argues that good business practices—such as focusing investments and technology on the most profitable products that are currently in high demand by the best customers—ultimately can weaken a great firm. Drawing on patterns of innovation in a variety of industries, including computers, retailing, pharmaceuticals, automobiles, and steel, he shows how truly important breakthrough innovation—or disruptive technologies—are initially rejected by mainstream customers because they cannot currently use them. This rejection can lead firms with strong customer focus to allow strategically important innovations to languish. An excessive customer focus prevents firms from creating new markets and finding new customers for the products of the future. As they unwittingly bypass opportunities, such firms can clear the way for more nimble, entrepreneurial companies to catch the next great wave of industry growth. Using the lessons of successes and failures of leading companies, The Innovator’s Dilemma presents a set of rules for capitalizing on the phenomenon of “disruptive innovation.”

Master and Commander by Patrick O’Brien

This Recommended category, Be Ready book, the first in the splendid series of historical novels depicting the Age of Fighting Sail, establishes the friendship between Captain Jack Aubrey, RN, and Stephen Maturin, ship’s surgeon and intelligence agent, against a thrilling backdrop of the Napoleonic wars. Details of a life aboard a man-of-war are faultlessly rendered: the conversational idiom of the officers in the wardroom and the men on the lower deck, the food, the floggings, the mysteries of the wind and the rigging, and the roar of broadsides as the great ships close in battle. It is the dawn of the 19th century; Britain is at war with Napoleon’s France. When Jack Aubrey, a young lieutenant in Nelson’s navy, is promoted to captain, he inherits command of HMS Sophie, an old, slow brig unlikely to make his fortune. But Captain Aubrey is a brave and gifted seaman, his thirst for adventure and victory immense. With the aid of his intrepid friend Maturin, Aubrey and his crew engage in one thrilling battle after another, their journey culminating in a stunning clash with a mighty Spanish frigate against whose guns and manpower the tiny Sophie is hopelessly outmatched.

Jack Aubrey is a literary icon, and this book, which serves as the launch for all the other (also recommended) adventures in this well-loved series, establishes what is at the core of the character’s appeal: He has all the qualities of naval leadership to which any officer in any navy would aspire.

**The Innovator’s Dilemma**
The Revolutionary Book That Will Change The Way You Do Business
by Clayton M. Christensen

**Master and Commander**
by Patrick O’Brien

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**eCopy, 411 Pages**
Pub. Date: November 1990
Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company

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**eCopy, 320 Pages**
Pub. Date: January 2003
Publisher: HarperCollins
**Longitude: The True Story of a Lone Genius...**  
*by Dava Sobel*

In this *Recommended category, Be Ready* book, the author acknowledges that anyone alive in the 18th century would have known that “the longitude problem” was the thorniest scientific dilemma of the day—and had been for centuries. Lacking the ability to measure their longitude, sailors throughout the great ages of exploration had been literally lost at sea as soon as they lost sight of land. Thousands of lives, and the increasing fortunes of nations, hung on a resolution. The quest for a solution to the longitude problem had occupied scientists and their patrons for the better part of two centuries when, in 1714, England’s Parliament upped the ante by offering the equivalent of a king’s ransom to anyone whose method or device proved successful.

The scientific establishment throughout Europe—from Galileo to Sir Isaac Newton—had mapped the heavens in both hemispheres in pursuit of a celestial answer. In stark contrast, one man, John Harrison, dared to imagine a mechanical solution—a clock that would keep precise time at sea, something no clock had ever been able to do on land. *Longitude* is the dramatic human story of an epic scientific quest, and of Harrison’s forty-year obsession with building his perfect timekeeper, known today as the chronometer. As the *New York Times* succinctly put it, “This is a gem of a book.”

Harrison, through his dogged determination and belief in his theory’s ultimate validity, changed the world. He is one of history’s exemplars of “thinking outside of the box.”

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**The Tipping Point**  
*by Malcolm Gladwell*

In this *Recommended category, Be Ready* book, the author asks, why did the crime rate in New York plummet so precipitously in the 1990s? How does a hitherto unknown writer become a bestselling novelist? Why is adolescent cigarette use rampant, when it is common knowledge that smoking is deadly? What makes a television program such as *Sesame Street* so effective at teaching children how to read? Why was Paul Revere’s famous ride a communications success? In *The Tipping Point*, *New Yorker* writer Malcolm Gladwell examines why big changes in society so often can occur suddenly and unexpectedly. Ideas, behavior, messages, and products, he asserts, sometimes spread like infectious-disease outbreaks. Just as a single sick person can start an epidemic of the flu, so too can a few fare-beaters and graffiti artists fuel a subway crime wave, or a satisfied customer fill the empty tables of a new restaurant. These are social epidemics, and the moment when they take off, when they reach their critical mass, is the “Tipping Point.” Gladwell introduces the reader to the particular personality types who are natural pollinators of new ideas and trends, the people who create the phenomenon of word of mouth. He analyzes fashion trends, smoking, children’s television, direct mail, and the early days of the American Revolution for clues about making ideas infectious, and visits a religious commune, a successful high-tech company, and one of the world’s greatest salesmen to show how to start and sustain social epidemics.
In this Recommended category, Be Ready book, in just under 300 pages, David McCullough manages to chronicle with great verve and immediacy the sweeping story of that fateful year of the title. Rather than focus on events in Philadelphia, where the Declaration of Independence was being drafted, 1776 sticks mainly to the military events, charting the triumphs and travails of the nascent Continental Army, from its successful siege of Boston to its near-destruction in New York to its ending the year with one of the most audacious—and profoundly successful—Hail Mary passes in history, the crossing of the Delaware and the Battle of Trenton. Of course, the man at center stage through this stirring saga is George Washington, and McCullough does an admirable job of showing just how monumental were the odds stacked against this natural leader. His indomitable will and his innate genius are vividly conveyed. Washington benefited from a pair of loyal and talented staff officers, Henry Knox and Nathanael Greene, whose important contributions to the struggle are given their just due.

As one reads this fast-paced narrative, a few points recur throughout: that the birth of America was by no means a foregone conclusion, that the cause’s fate hung by a tenuous thread on more than one occasion, that the Revolution so easily might have been crushed any number of times, and that the barefoot, bedraggled amateurs who fought, bled, and died for this new country are worth remembering. Always. This is popular history at its best.

Leadership: The Warrior’s Art
edited by Christopher Kolenda; foreword by General Barry R. McCaffrey, USA (Ret.)

This Recommended category, Be Ready book is a varied collection of essays that brings together some of the foremost military thinkers as they look at the dynamics of leadership in the “crucible of command.” Contributors include General Gordon Sullivan, former U.S. Army Chief of Staff; Conrad Cane; Fred Kagan, Dennis Showalter; and Cole Kingseed. The principles drawn from historical examples are shown to be applicable to the business environment as well. The anthology covers leadership concepts from the classical to the modern, from Alexander the Great to the Second World War. The nineteen essays are grouped into three sections: “Ancient and Modern Concepts of Leadership,” “Historical Case Studies,” and “Contemporary Experiences and Reflections on Leadership.” In all, this work is a bold, fresh, and broad-scale examination and analysis of the single most critical factor in what makes groups drive for success in the face of daunting resistance. It is a volume of monumental significance. To the military professional, it is a sterling addition to the leadership bookshelf.
The CNO Professional Reading Program was developed with the cooperation of the CNO-PRP Advisory Group, consisting of representatives of the following organizations:

- Commander, Navy Installations Command
- Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy
- Naval Historical Center
- Naval Postgraduate School
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- Senior Enlisted Academy
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