

U.S. Naval Institute 2022 Editorial Board Ballot

Candidate Profiles



CAPT Thomas E. Clarity, USN

Captain Thomas Clarity is a military professor in the Joint Military Operations Department at the Naval War College.

Captain Clarity 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.

He 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.

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



SgtMaj Anthony J. Easton, USMC

Sergeant Major Anthony Easton enlisted in July 1994 and earned the military occupation skill of combat engineer. He currently is 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 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 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 R. 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 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* and won the 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 Brian Kerg is a Marine Corps communications officer who began his career as an enlisted mortarman and SAW gunner. Currently, he is a nonresident 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.

Commissioned in 2006, he has deployed to the western Pacific and to Afghanistan in support of NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan 12.1, serving as the detachment's executive officer and Afghan Border Police advisor.

Major Kerg is a graduate of Expeditionary Warfare School and the Air Command and Staff College online master's program. He holds a master's degree in military history from Norwich University, a master of science in information from the University of Michigan, and a master's degree in military operational art and science from Air University.



LCDR Tyson B. Meadors, USN

Lieutenant Commander Tyson Meadors is a Navy cyber warfare engineer currently assigned to Cryptologic Warfare Activity 67. He previously served both afloat and ashore as a surface warfare officer and naval intelligence officer.

From 2017 to 2018, Lieutenant Commander Meadors was a Director of Cyber Policy on the National Security Council Staff, where he advised the President, Vice President, and multiple National Security Advisors on cyber operations policy, technology, and threats and helped draft multiple national-level strategies and policies.

Prior to commissioning from the U.S. Naval Academy, he worked as a journalist and taught English in the People's Republic of China. He is the only naval officer to ever defeat a guided missile destroyer in a real-world engagement and is also the founder and chief executive officer of Ex Mare Cyber, a cybersecurity consultancy.



CDR Scott E. Welles, USN

Commander Scott 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, 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 hails from Brooklyn, NY and is a former enlisted Marine and 2005 U.S. Naval Academy graduate. A communications officer by trade and veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, he currently serves as a PhD strategist within the Plans, Policies and Operations Directorate of Headquarters Marine Corps. He is currently detailed to the Joint Staff J-5 to help write the 2022 National Military Strategy.

In addition to his current duties, he is also the Director of the Barrow Fellowship for Strategic Competition at Marine Corps University; and is the creator / editor of the Marine Corps' graphic novel series *Destination Unknown*; published with Marine Corps University Press.

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, and a master's degree in military studies from Marine Corps University. He is also a PhD Candidate at the School of International Service at American University. His dissertation examines the linkages between military warfighting culture and innovation.