

HAROLD I. HEATON

GUEST EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

The world has changed dramatically in the last two years, and America's national security policy has undergone fundamental changes as a result. This policy shift was first articulated at the Aspen Institute in the summer of 1990 by then President George Bush, and it was reflected in the "Base Force" concept and in his National Security Strategy. That new strategy has profound implications for the Navy and Marine Corps, and places far greater emphasis on joint and combined operations from the sea. The older focus on global threats and open-ocean warfighting has been superseded by regional concerns. The "new direction of the Navy and Marine Corps team . . . is to provide the nation naval expeditionary forces shaped for joint operations, operating forward from the sea, tailored for national needs."¹ These changes present new challenges, and technological innovation will play a key role in meeting them.

This issue of the *Johns Hopkins APL Technical Digest* emphasizes the role that emerging technologies can play in helping the Naval Service to dominate the littoral battlespace. Although it provides a broad context for joint operations in that setting, the issue focuses on systems concepts and designs developed (at least in part) by staff at the Applied Physics Laboratory. It also highlights several scientific and engineering concerns that still confront the development and implementation of many of these systems.

In the first article, Vice Admiral William Owens stresses that the cornerstone of the new military is jointness—four services operating as a single integrated force. Six joint mission areas (joint strike, joint littoral warfare, joint surveillance, joint space and electronic warfare and intelligence, strategic deterrence, and strategic sealift and its protection) have been identified to support assessments of future system needs. The goal of those assessments is to assure that the Navy and Marine Corps team will dominate the battlespace and enable power projection. Although providing a new context, the joint mission areas often involve elements of the older warfare areas

in order to attain specific objectives: strike and antisurface warfare, amphibious warfare, and antiair warfare to achieve both offensive and defensive superiority; full-spectrum antisubmarine warfare and mine warfare to detect, avoid, neutralize, and clear undersea threats; space and electronic warfare to maintain situational awareness and to disrupt the enemy's decision-making process; special operations; and maritime interdiction.

The commitment of APL to the Naval Service and these new mission areas remains steadfast. We continue to value our role as a trusted partner with the Navy and Marine Corps, and the broad capabilities of our staff are being applied in a wide variety of maritime programs. These programs, which address both current and future requirements, are described in the article by Gary Smith.

Even though the strategic threat to America has declined, we are entering a period of enormous uncertainty in regions critical to our national interests. Competing economic and political interests in developing countries, increased ethnic and territorial conflicts, and declining defense budgets all contribute to that uncertainty. The availability of sophisticated platforms, sensors, and weaponry on the open market means that some

nontraditional adversaries may be formidable. The article by Stokes and Thompson discusses the potential threats and examines the roles and missions of the Naval Service in littoral settings. It also identifies several key technologies and capabilities needed to meet these stressing and unique challenges.

As both the threat and our force structure change, our ability to command the seas in the complex littoral areas where we anticipate future operations to occur must remain undiminished. The littoral region comprises both the seaward portion of the battlespace (the area from the open ocean to the beach, which must be controlled to support operations ashore) and the landward segment (the area inland from the shore that can be supported and defended directly from the sea). As such, it includes the transition from deep ocean to the continental shelf and

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Naval Expeditionary Forces



Shaped for Joint Operations



Operating Forward from the Sea



Tailored for National Needs¹

from the beach to land, and thus presents a wide variety of operational settings. This situation places substantial demands on the weapons and sensors that must support our forces' objectives. Sinex and Winokur provide an overview of the complex environmental interactions in this zone and discuss their potential impact on amphibious operations. They also describe several new methods that are being developed for measuring and predicting environmental features associated with important processes in littoral regions. The warm water temperatures, high humidity, complex hydrodynamic and chemical backgrounds, and high water opacity in addition to high reverberation and noise levels, and the proximity of the bottom may constrain the performance of a variety of acoustic and nonacoustic sensors in these settings.

The littoral regions where conflicts may arise will often be unfamiliar territory to our forces, and may be easily mined by an aggressor. The airspace may be occupied by allies, adversaries, and neutral parties. The fleet is also likely to encounter highly capable antiship missile threats that employ the latest sea-skimming weapons technology. This latter concern has led APL to support the Navy in developing a Ship Self-Defense "Road-Map," which provides a technical approach for (1) achieving the capability needed to counter the anti-air threat through incremental system improvements, (2) developing critically needed new system components, and (3) integrating them into ship combat systems. This mapping serves as the basis for several current design and development activities, described further in the article by Ousborne.

The threat of also encountering tactical *ballistic* missiles in littoral settings, dramatically evident during Desert Storm, has revitalized our national program for theater missile defense. A critical element of this new defensive capability will be the sea-based component. An early capability may be implemented initially over a limited area by a modified Standard missile and by associated changes to the Aegis combat system. In their article, Rempt and Langston describe this option and the technologies and system concepts under consideration for future implementation of a longer-range naval component to the theater ballistic missile defense system. Future systems might cooperatively engage threats by sharing targeting information among platforms, and good target cueing and various levels of data fusion may be necessary.

The Naval Service will have fewer ships and personnel in the future, but it will face a more diverse threat. Although the Navy will take delivery of several new ships by the end of 1994, these were "born" in the era of the Cold War and they may not fully meet the needs of a littoral expeditionary force. Unmanned underwater vehicles (UUV's) might enable force planners to extend the command, control, and surveillance functions of these and other ships in an affordable manner. The article by Shotts and McNamara identifies several potential roles for unmanned underwater vehicles (e.g., mine detection and surveillance), discusses critical technology areas that must continue to be developed to implement those roles, and recommends an investment strategy in support of the Navy's mission to project power from the sea. Systems

to support the roles are achievable through the application of current or near-term technology.

Battlespace surveillance from overhead sensors and UUV's develops essential management and targeting information for strike and amphibious assault platforms, but extended undersea surveillance is also essential to protect the surface and submarine forces. The acoustic sensors that traditionally provide these surveillance data have been developed primarily for use in deep-water regions and may suffer reduced performance in shelf environments. In their article, Lombardo, Newhall, and Feuillet describe the development and testing of two new mobile arrays of hydrophones that address the changing requirements for submarine surveillance in both deep-ocean and littoral settings. Very high gain has been achieved at very low frequencies in noisy environments seaward of the shelf. The higher-frequency twin-line array (capable of resolving the persistent "bearing ambiguity" problem) promises good performance in shallow waters even in the presence of dense shipping. Although each such array is populated with conventional hydrophones connected by wires, rapid advances in photonics technology may result in all-optical towed arrays in the future.

Acoustic propagation can be highly variable in shallow water because of the spatial variability of bottom conditions and multiple acoustic interactions with the interfaces. In some situations, propagation ranges may be limited, and distributed low-gain acoustic sensors may be more appropriate than high-gain acoustic arrays. In order to choose optimal designs for future shallow-water systems, reliable acoustic propagation models are required. Boyles and Biondo discuss the physical factors that must be taken into account to accurately model shallow-water acoustic propagation. They also survey the generic classes of acoustic models available to assess how well each takes the identified factors into account.

Given the difficulty of detecting targets in littoral areas, no one sensor will provide an adequate view of the tactical scene. New techniques for communicating and properly fusing data from the undersea *and* above-sea scenes will be needed. The article by Widmer describes a promising approach to the former, a highly reliable but one-way communications channel based on low-frequency active acoustics. This low-data-rate system has been implemented during testing at sea, and its utility has been demonstrated.

The large volume of composite battlespace information that may be rapidly presented to system operators emphasizes the need for effective information management and command-level decision aids on each platform, to ensure that our forces maintain a tactical advantage. Dantzer and Scheerer address this need in the final paper of this issue by exploring the suitability of using expert systems technology for autonomously describing and continually refining the undersea oceanographic scene. Advanced simulations of the composite performance of real and simulated units operating in a virtual battlespace may play a role in evaluating the efficacy of such a capability. Large-scale simulations also promise to provide a cost-effective approach for training warfighters,

evaluating tactics, and developing competitive investment strategies that can help preserve our national interests in the future.

Technological innovation is vital both to the success of the littoral systems and to the new joint mission areas. In his December 1991 foreign policy speech entitled "A New Covenant for American Security," (then presidential candidate) Bill Clinton described four generic categories of military competence as essential for a restructured military. Among them was the need to maintain our technological edge. This theme was echoed by (then Representative) Les Aspin in a 1992 speech before the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs, where he said that "as far as technology goes, we are living in a different world . . . In World War II, if we wanted to have a ninety percent chance of knocking out a medium-sized target, we had to plan to drop 9,000 bombs on it. In Vietnam, the figure was about 175 bombs. In Operation Desert Storm, we are talking about numbers in the single digits." Technology leverages the response options available to military strategists, and may compel an adversary to avoid further escalation in limited conflicts.

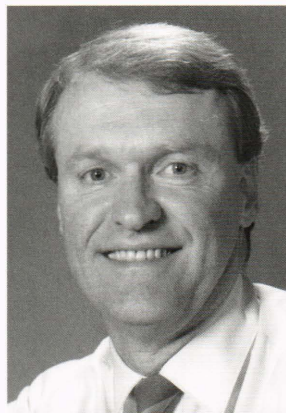
As the defense establishment declines, and new approaches to defense management evolve, the threat will continue to proliferate. In this climate, technology is a key force-multiplier. The technology thrust areas (global surveillance and communications, precision strike, air defense and superiority, undersea superiority, training and readiness, and reducing acquisition time and cost) defined recently by then Director of Defense Research and Engineering Victor Reis remain as relevant to the Navy today as in the past. But many of the companies that sustained themselves by developing defense technologies (partly to meet these thrusts) must now diversify their business and form teaming arrangements in order to remain solvent. The management policies that evolve to implement President Clinton's Defense Reinvestment and Conversion Initiative (as outlined in his March 1993 presentation at Westinghouse, Linthicum, Md.) will leverage our past investment in defense technology to

benefit the civilian sector—but they must also ensure the continued application of advanced technology to our defense needs. Only the focus has changed to emphasize joint military operations in-theater, and a dual-use industrial capacity at home.

REFERENCE

¹... *From the Sea, Preparing the Naval Service for the 21st Century*, Navy and Marine Corps White Paper, p. 3 (Sep 1992).

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