



NAVYCON

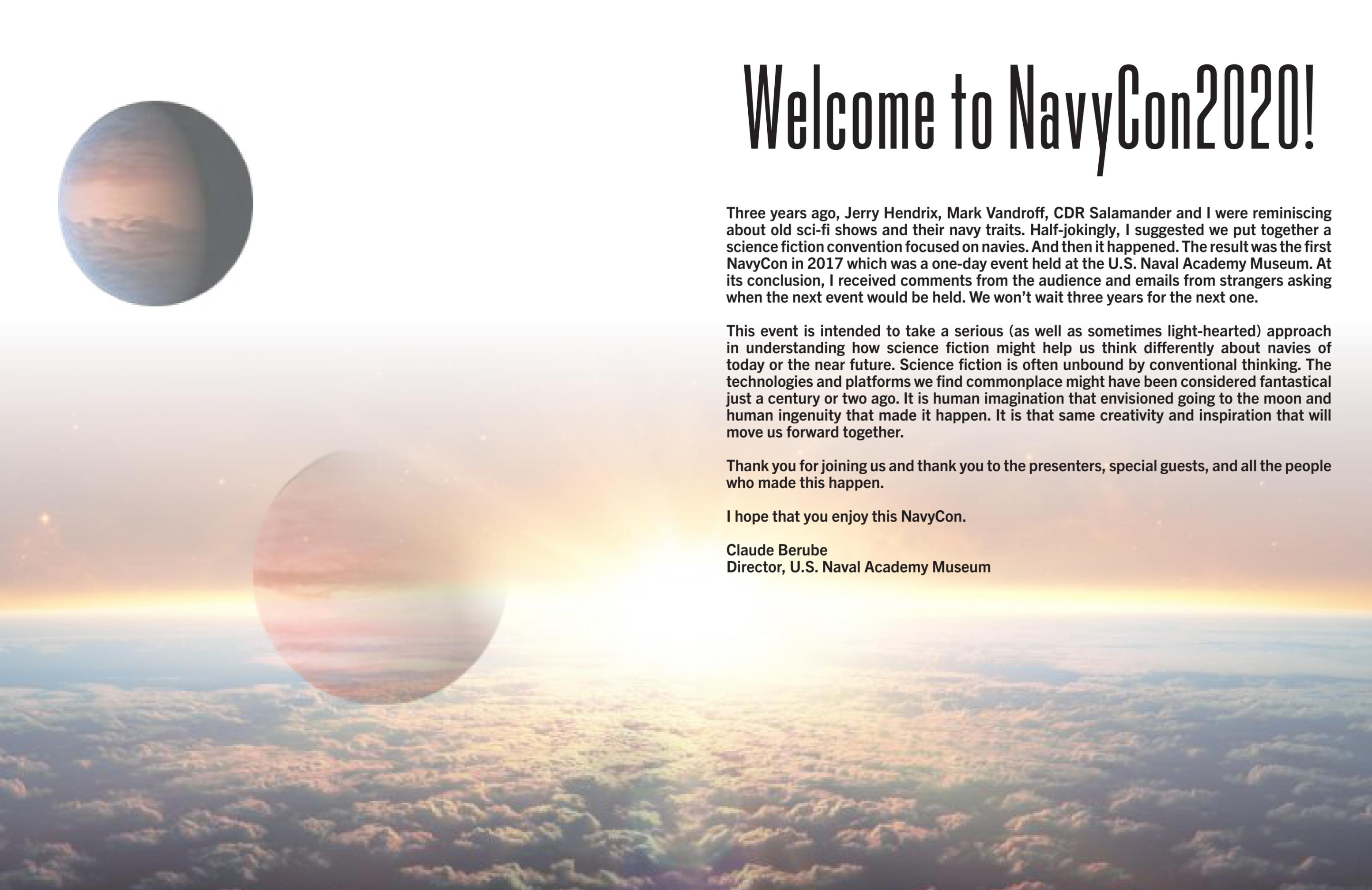
2020

June 4



Navies, Science Fiction, and
Great Power Competition





Welcome to NavyCon2020!

Three years ago, Jerry Hendrix, Mark Vandroff, CDR Salamander and I were reminiscing about old sci-fi shows and their navy traits. Half-jokingly, I suggested we put together a science fiction convention focused on navies. And then it happened. The result was the first NavyCon in 2017 which was a one-day event held at the U.S. Naval Academy Museum. At its conclusion, I received comments from the audience and emails from strangers asking when the next event would be held. We won't wait three years for the next one.

This event is intended to take a serious (as well as sometimes light-hearted) approach in understanding how science fiction might help us think differently about navies of today or the near future. Science fiction is often unbound by conventional thinking. The technologies and platforms we find commonplace might have been considered fantastical just a century or two ago. It is human imagination that envisioned going to the moon and human ingenuity that made it happen. It is that same creativity and inspiration that will move us forward together.

Thank you for joining us and thank you to the presenters, special guests, and all the people who made this happen.

I hope that you enjoy this NavyCon.

Claude Berube
Director, U.S. Naval Academy Museum

Presenters and Topics

Opening remarks:

CDR Claude Berube, USNR, PhD
Director, US Naval Academy Museum

CDR B.J. Armstrong, USN, PhD
Associate Chair, Department of History
U.S. Naval Academy
"The U.S. Navy and SciFi: From the Civil War to Midway"

Message from **Lieutenant Kayla Barron, USN**
Naval Academy Class of 2010
NASA Astronaut

Keynote: **Major General Mick Ryan**
Commander, Australian Defence College
"Science Fiction and its Utility for the National Security Community"

CDR Claude Berube, USNR, PhD
Director, US Naval Academy Museum
"How the Federation Overcame the Shipbuilding Gap before the Defense of Coppelius in 'Star Trek Picard'"

Colonel Cory Hollon
US Air Force
"The Kaiju Should Have Won: Force Deployment and Strategy in Pacific Rim"

Message from **Dr. Kori Schake**
Director of Foreign and Defense Policy Studies
American Enterprise Institute

August Cole
Co-author of "Ghost Fleet" and "Burn-In"
"When A Robot Has The Helm"

Jennifer Marland, Curator
NSWC-Carderock
"A Navy is Essential for your Planet: Wars Between Barrayar and Cetaganda in Lois McMaster Bujold's Vorkosiverse"

Message from **CDR Salamander**, Navy blogger and co-host of Midrats

Clara Engle
Department of Commerce
"Babylon 5 and International Relations Theory"
Randy Papadopoulos, PhD
Historian for the Secretary of the Navy
"Isaac Asimov, Arthur C. Clarke and Why Space Warfare will be about Fleets"

Message from **Hugh Hewitt**

Major Thomas Harper, USAR, JAG
"It's a Trap! The Intersection of the Battle of Endor & the Law of Armed Conflict"

Captain Jonathan Bratten, USANG
Command Historian/Maine National Guard
"Perils of Joint Command: Imperial Disaster at Endor"

Ian Boley, Texas A&M
"Sidewinders, Sunbeams, and Negaspheres: Skunkworks and Rapid Innovation in the Lensman Series."

CAPT Jerry Hendrix, USN (Ret), PhD
Vice President, The Telemus Group
"Honorverse: Revolutions in Military Affairs and the Weapons Development Board"

Message from **Congressman Mike Gallagher**

David Larter
Reporter, Defense News
"Alien and the Operators"

CAPT Mark Vandroff, USN (Ret)
Deputy Assistant to the President & Senior Director for Defense Policy, National Security Council
"Engineering for Great Power Competition"

Message from science fiction author **David Weber**

Christopher Weuve
"Aircraft Carriers in Space!"

CDR Phil Pournelle, USN (Ret)
"Traveler's Trillion Credit Squadron Game and Future Fleet Architecture"

Closing - **Claude Berube**



CDR B.J. Armstrong, USN, PhD Associate Chair, Department of History U.S. Naval Academy

CDR Benjamin "BJ" Armstrong is the Associate Chair of the Naval Academy History Department and a regular contributor to programming at the Naval Academy Museum. He holds a PhD in War Studies from King's College London and has published widely on maritime history and naval professionalism.

CDR Claude Berube, USNR, PhD Director, US Naval Academy Museum

Claude Berube has taught in both the Political Science and History Departments since 2005 and has served as the Director of the U.S. Naval Academy Museum since 2012. He worked on Capitol Hill for two Senators, the Office of Naval Intelligence, and as a defense contractor for Naval Sea Systems Command and the Office of Naval Research. He was a LEGIS fellow with Brookings Institute and a maritime security fellow with the Heritage Foundation. An intelligence officer in the Navy Reserve, he deployed to the Persian Gulf in 2004 with Expeditionary Strike Group Five and most recently as the Deputy J2 at JTF-GTMO. His fourth non-fiction and third fiction books will be published in 2021.



Major General Mick Ryan Commander, Australian Defence College

Major General Mick Ryan graduated from the Royal Military College, Duntroon, in 1989 as a Combat Engineer. Early career highlights include: serving with the 6RAR Battalion Group in East Timor in 2000; in 2003, being the lead planner for development of the first ADF Network Centric Warfare Roadmap; and in 2005, serving as the Deputy J3 for the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq, Baghdad.

Major General Ryan commanded the 1st Combat Engineer Regiment from 2006 until 2007. He also commanded the 1st Reconstruction Task Force in southern Afghanistan from August 2006 to April 2007, and was awarded the Order of Australia for the command of this Task Force. In 2008, he served at Army Headquarters, working primarily on the Adaptive Army strategic reform initiative. In 2009, he served as the Military Assistant to the Chief of Army. From 2010 - 2011, Major General Ryan worked in the Pakistan

Afghanistan Coordination Cell (PACC) on the US Joint Staff, as the Division Chief for Governance, Development and Engagement, and subsequently in a new Strategy and Policy Division. During this time, he also led the Joint Staff effort for the President's Afghanistan-Pakistan Annual Review for the National Security Committee in 2010 and led PACC support to General John Allen in his Senate Confirmation for command in Afghanistan. In January 2013, was appointed Director General Strategic Plans in Army Headquarters. During this appointment, he was responsible for Army's contribution to the Defence White Paper and Force Structure Review, Army's development of future structures, experimentation, and fostering professional discourse through the Army Journal and establishment of the online Land Power Forum.

Major General Ryan has a Bachelor's degree in Asian Studies from the University of New England and is a graduate of the Australian Defence Force School of Languages. He is a Distinguished Graduate of the United States Marine Corps Command and Staff College, and a graduate of the USMC School of Advanced Warfighting. In 2012, he graduated with distinction from the Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies, earning a Master's in International Public Policy.

From October 2014 until February 2016, Major General Ryan commanded the Darwin-based 1st Brigade, the Australian Army's oldest and most operationally experienced combat formation. From February 2016 until October 2017, he led the education, training and doctrine efforts in Army as Director General Training and Doctrine. During this, he authored and implemented the Ryan Review, a fundamental and future-oriented strategic review of Army's approach to education, training, doctrine and lessons learned. During this appointment, Army's revised strategy for PME was developed and a broader roll-out of online PME delivery was implemented.

Major General Ryan has deep experience in the fields of strategy, interagency and joint operations, command and leadership as well as professional military education. He possesses a long-standing interest in national and military strategy, military history, as well as organizational innovation and adaptation. He is President of the Defence Entrepreneurs Forum (Australia), an undertaking to nurture innovation in the ADF's junior leaders. He is a proud Member of the Military Writers Guild. Major General Ryan was appointed Commander, Australian Defence College in January 2018.

Colonel Cory Hollon US Air Force



Colonel Hollon is a Master Navigator with over 2800 hours and over 1000 combat hours in the F-15E Strike Eagle. He graduated from Western Kentucky University in 1995 with a Bachelor of Arts in Speech Communication and Religion. He was commissioned through Officer Training School in 1998 and earned his wings in 1999. Col Hollon is a 2004 graduate of the USAF Weapons Instructor Course. He holds Masters Degrees in History from American Military University, Operational Arts and Sciences from Air Command and Staff College, Military Arts and Sciences from the School of Advanced Military Studies, and Strategic Studies from the Air War College. Lt Col Hollon commanded the 332nd Operations Support Squadron at an undisclosed location in the Middle East. He has six operational deployments in support of Operations SOUTHERN WATCH, ENDURING FREEDOM, IRAQI FREEDOM, NOBLE EAGLE, and INHERENT

RESOLVE. He has published articles on Star Wars, the Mexican-American War, and Multi-Domain Operations. Most recently, he was a student in the Grand Strategy Seminar at the Air War College at Maxwell AFB, AL.

August Cole Co-author of "Ghost Fleet" and "Burn-In"

August Cole is an author exploring the future of conflict through fiction and other forms of "FICINT" storytelling. His talks, short stories, and workshops have taken him from speaking at the Nobel Institute in Oslo to presenting at SXSW Interactive to tackling the "Dirty Name" obstacle at Fort Benning. With Peter W. Singer, he is the co-author of the best-seller "Ghost Fleet: A Novel of the Next World War" (2015) and his latest novel, "Burn In: A Novel of the Real Robot Revolution", released May 26. He is a non-resident senior fellow at the Brent Scowcroft Center on Strategy and Security at the Atlantic Council; he directed the Council's Art of the Future Project, which explores creative and narrative works for insight into the future of conflict, from its inception in 2014 through 2017. He also works on creative futures at SparkCognition, an artificial intelligence company.



Jennifer Marland Curator, NSWC-Carderock



Ms. Marland is a graduate of Mary Baldwin College with dual majors in History and Art History with a minor in Historic Preservation, member of Phi Beta Kappa, and recipient of the Ulysse Desportes Award for excellence in Art History. From 2000-2018, she was a curator at the National Museum of the United States Navy, in Washington, D.C. where she curated over 24 museum exhibits including "Far From Home, Reflections of World War II," "Naval Innovation in the Digital Age," "Remembering: Pentagon 9.11.01," "Navigating the Dead Sea," "Sailors in the Sand," "Bats, Balls, and Anchors Aweigh: The U.S. Navy and Our National Pastime," "From Fiction to Reality," and "Defeat to Victory: 1814-1815." In 2018 she joined the Navy's Office of the Curator of Models as the Assistant Curator where she helps manage the care and display of over 3,500 historic models.

Clara Engle, M.A. Department of Commerce



Clara Engle got her start in science fiction back in middle school when her teacher assigned her to read the Foundation Trilogy. From then she was hooked. Clara received her MA in International Relations from the University of Chicago and her Bachelor's Degree in Asian Studies and Political Science from Pomona College. Her research interests range from the role of protests in authoritarian states to the use of media in shaping narratives. Currently, Clara lives outside of Austin, Texas and works for the Department of Commerce.

Randy Papadopoulos, PhD Historian for the Secretary of the Navy



Sarandis (“Randy”) Papadopoulos received his B.A. from the University of Toronto, M.A. from the University of Alabama, and Ph.D. from the George Washington University. At the last, his dissertation was entitled “Feeding the Sharks: The Logistics of Submarine Warfare, 1935-1945,” comparing the German and U.S. Navies. He has been a Lecturer in History at George Washington, the University of Maryland, College Park and Norwich University, and is the Secretariat Historian for the Department of the Navy.

He contributed to the book *You Cannot Surge Trust*, and served as principal co-author of the book *Pentagon 9/11*, published by the Historian, Office of the Secretary of Defense. He is currently coediting *Conceptualizing Maritime and Naval Strategy*, to appear later this year. A Society for Military History Trustee, he was President of the U.S. Commission on

Military History and chairs the Military Classics Seminar. Papadopoulos has received the U.S. Department of the Navy Distinguished and Superior Civilian Service Awards.

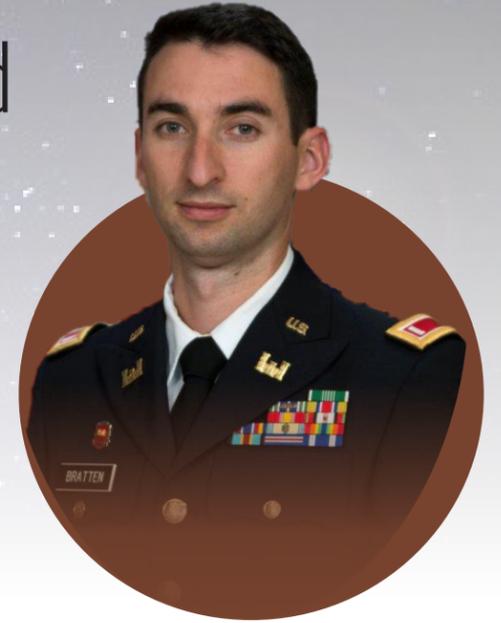
Major Thomas Harper USAR, JAG

Major Thomas Harper, USA, is an officer and attorney in the Army Judge Advocate General’s Corps (JAG Corps). He enlisted in the Army Reserve after graduating high school and went on to commission through the Army ROTC program. Following law school, Thomas served on active duty as a Judge Advocate for more than 7 years. He has served in a variety of capacities, including as a prosecutor, a Special Victim Counsel, and as an Operational Law attorney in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom. He currently serves as a Deputy Regional Defense Counsel in the Army Reserve. Thomas writes and podcasts for *The Legal Geeks*, an American Bar Association Top 100 legal blog, where he uses *Star Wars* to teach about a wide variety of legal topics, from POW status to the lawful use of force. He regularly shares his passion for the intersection between *Star Wars* and the military, having presented at San Diego Comic Con, *Star Wars Celebration* (Disney’s official *Star Wars* convention), *WonderCon*, *DragonCon*, and *Nerd Nite* events in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia.



Captain Jonathan Bratten, USANG Command Historian/Maine National Guard

Captain Jonathan Bratten is the Command Historian for the Maine National Guard. In this capacity, he has produced multiple articles on the history of Maine’s soldiers, appearing in such publications as “*The New York Times*,” “*The Washington Post*,” “*Army History*,” and “*On Point*.” He has also appeared in the Smithsonian Channel documentary, “*Americans Underground: Secret Cities of World War I*” and served as a historian in France for the Army’s World War I Centennial commemorations. His book *To the Last Man: A National Guard Regiment in the Great War, 1917-1919* is due out in the summer of 2020 from Army University Press. Captain Bratten remains a strong fan of science fiction, having authored a chapter on Darth Vader and mission command in the *Strategy Strikes Back* anthology. Additionally, Captain Bratten is the commander of the 251st Engineer Company and a veteran of Afghanistan.



Ian Boley Texas A&M

Ian Boley is a PhD candidate at Texas A&M University, where his advisor is Dr. Jonathan Coopersmith. His doctoral research examines the Strategic Defense Initiative. He is a graduate of Fudan University in Shanghai, China, and Marietta College in Marietta, Ohio. His first “adult” book was *Starship Troopers*, the first movie he remembers is *Star Wars*, and he has yet to recover.



CAPT Jerry Hendrix, USN (Ret), PhD Vice President, The Telemus Group

Dr. Jerry Hendrix is a retired Navy captain and former Director of Naval History. After 26 years of naval service, with five deployments in support of combat operations, he went on to serve as the director of defense analysis at a major Washington, DC thinktank before moving to the Telemus Group, a defense services and consultancy, where he is a vice president. He is a frequent contributor to *The National Review* and a consultant to the Defense Science Board.



David Larter Reporter, Defense News

David Larter is the Naval Warfare Reporter for Defense News and a proud Navy veteran. He holds a BA in English Literature from University of Richmond and has spent the last 10 years in the media, covering the military from Washington and business in Richmond, Virginia.

A Scotland native, he spent most of his childhood in the Philadelphia area. He joined the delayed entry program in August 2001 and went to Boot Camp in 2002. He served nearly four years on board the USS Normandy before leaving the service to pursue a degree. He is a resident of Alexandria, Virginia, an avid runner, hiker, reader and long-suffering owner of a stubborn hound dog.

He can be reached by email at dlarter@defensenews.com.



Christopher Weuve

Christopher Weuve is a professional naval analyst and wargame designer. He spent six years at the Center for Naval Analyses (where he learned the Combat Information Center of a Burke-class destroyer would make an excellent starship bridge), and then five years on the faculty of the US Naval War College, where he wrote about Chinese aircraft carrier development. After a decade as an intelligence analyst, he's now back to designing wargames for the Department of Defense.

Outside the day job, he's a founding member of BuNine (David Weber's Honorverse analytic visualization team), and was an editor for "House of Steel: The Honorverse Companion," in which he also co-authored (with David Weber) the "Building a Navy in the Honorverse" chapter.

As both an avid science fiction fan since before he was old enough to read and a Distinguished Graduate of the Naval War College, Chris spends his free time analyzing Real-World(tm) naval warfare and how similar subjects are represented in science fiction. He is (to the best of his knowledge) the only person ever interviewed (twice!) by the journal Foreign Policy about science fiction warships. He still describes himself as an lowan, almost three decades after he moved east.



CAPT Mark Vandroff, USN (Ret) Deputy Assistant to the President & Senior Director for Defense Policy, National Security Council

Captain Mark Vandroff, USN (Ret) serves as a Deputy Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Defense Policy and Strategy at the National Security Council, The White House. A 1989 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, he was the 10th Major Program Manager for the Arleigh Burke Class Destroyer program and the 37th Commanding Officer of NSWC Carderock. He holds a Master's of Science in Applied Physics from the Johns Hopkins University and is a frequent contributor to the Naval Institute's "Proceedings" and online publications such as Strategy Bridge and CIMSEC. Mark was recognized by the American Society of Naval Engineers with 2018 Gold Medal award for excellence in naval engineering.



CDR Phil Pournelle, USN (Ret)

Commander Phillip Pournelle retired from the US Navy after 26 year of service as a Surface Warfare Officer, Operations Analyst, and Planner. He served on cruisers, destroyers, amphibious ships, and an experimental high speed vessel. He served on the Navy Staff doing campaign analysis, at the Office of Secretary of Defense Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, and at the Office of Net Assessment. He is now the Senior Director for Wargaming and Analysis at the Long Term Strategy Group.



Special Appearances by:

Dr. Kori Schake
American Enterprise Institute

Congressman Mike Gallagher (R-WI)

NASA Astronaut LT Kayla Barron, USN
USNA Class of 2010

CDR Salamander
Navy blogger and co-host of Midrats

Hugh Hewitt
Radio Show Host and Author

David Weber
Science Fiction Author

For more information about the **US Naval Academy
Museum:**
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Twitter: @USNAMuseum

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/usnamuseum/?hl=en>

Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/124290051@N05/>

Youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqhAGJUllpMw4ELUp8HlyZQ>

A History of the Navy in 100 Objects: <https://www.usna.edu/100Objects/index.php>

Preble Hall Naval History podcast: <https://www.usna.edu/Museum/PrebleHall/index.php>

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