

SURFACE NAVY ASSOCIATION LITERARY AWARD

Co-Sponsored by USNI

First Place Winner

“The Coming of Age of Directed Energy Weapons and The Red Sea Crisis”
CIMSEC, May 2024



DR. BONNIE JOHNSON

Dr. Bonnie Johnson is a systems thinker and visionary who studies advanced technologies as engineered solutions for Naval warfighters. Bonnie leads interdisciplinary Naval research projects and is a professor of systems engineering at the Naval Postgraduate School. Her research explores and advances directed energy warfare, combat systems, and artificial intelligence battle management aids. Bonnie advises hundreds of NPS active-duty and civilian graduate students as they pursue their thesis and dissertation research projects. Prior to working at NPS, she was a senior systems engineer with Northrop Grumman and SAIC, working on Naval and Joint air and missile defense systems. She has a PhD in Systems Engineering from NPS, a Master’s in Systems Engineering from Johns Hopkins, and a Bachelors in Physics from Virginia Tech.

Honorable Mention

“It All Comes Down to Sea Control”, *Proceedings*, December 2023



CAPT SCOTT TAIT, USN (RET)

Captain Scott Tait’s assignments included positions leading strategy, policy, and innovation efforts in the Indo-Pacific region and Washington, D.C. At sea, he served in combatant ships, commanded the USS Mustin (DDG-89) and, most recently, the USS Zumwalt (DDG-1000). He holds master’s degrees from Stanford University in International Policy and from the U.S. Naval War College in National Security and Strategic Studies. He retired in April 2019, serving for 27 years. He is currently the Executive Director of the National Security Innovation Catalyst located at UC San Diego.



CDR ANTHONY LAVOPA, USN

Commander LaVopa earned a Civil Engineering degree from Virginia Tech in 2009, an MBA from Ohio University in 2015, and a Master’s in National Security from the Naval War College in 2024. At sea, Commander LaVopa served in various leadership roles, including Electrical Officer, Assistant Chief Engineer, and Navigator on USS PORTER, as well as Weapons and Combat Systems Officer on USS ZUMWALT and USS LEYTE GULF, where he supported Integrated Air and Missile Defense operations. He also commanded USS HURRICANE during its Bahrain deployment. Ashore, he was an instructor at NROTC Rutgers, helped reestablish the NROTC at Princeton, and worked on the Chief of Naval Operations staff as the DDG 1000 Requirements Officer. Commander LaVopa is currently the Prospective Executive Officer for USS BULKELEY (DDG 84).