

Title: Pacific Sentinel- The Life and Career of Admiral Harry Ervin Yarnell  
Speaker: Dr. Ryan Wadle  
Date: 24 May 2023  
Time: 1200-1315  
Where: C-138 and via Zoom  
POC: Dr. Evan Wilson, Hattendorf Historical Center

## **SYNOPSIS:**

Admiral Harry Yarnell is an unheralded but pivotal figure in the development of the U.S. Navy's strategy and force structure in the decades leading up to World War II. During his naval career, he served in the Spanish-American War, then later as a war planner on Admiral William Sims' staff in London during World War I, followed by a tour as an inaugural member of the Navy's War Plans Division that drew up the earliest interwar iterations of what became War Plan Orange. Later, Yarnell commanded the navy's carrier force and helped to develop carrier tactics during their formative period, and he ended his active-duty career as commander of the Asiatic Fleet during the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese War. This lecture will focus on three distinct periods in his career where he designed US strategy in the Pacific, shaped the force needed to wage a trans-Pacific campaign, and then implemented US policy in east Asia in the face of Japanese aggression.

## **BIOs:**

Professor Ryan Wadle, Ph.D., is an associate professor in the John B. Hattendorf Center for Maritime Historical Research. His scholarly interests include naval strategy and policy, organizational culture, the military and the media, and the U.S. experience in Afghanistan. His published works have been recognized by the Society for Military History and the North American Society for Oceanic History. Prior to joining the Hattendorf Center, he served on the faculty at Air University's School of Graduate Professional Military Education and also as part of the Afghanistan Study Team at the U.S. Army's Combat Studies Institute.