

CURRICULUM VITAE

Captain Joel I. Holwitt, USN, Ph.D.

ACADEMIC EDUCATION

The Ohio State University

Doctor of Philosophy, History, 11 December 2005

3.96 GPA, 95 course hours

Master of Arts, History, 20 March 2005

3.96 GPA, 75 course hours

United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland

Bachelors of Science with honors and distinction, History, 23 May 2003

3.95 GPA, 149 course hours

College of Distance Education, U.S. Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island

Graduate of the Command and Staff Program with distinction, 14 July 2015

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Joel Ira Holwitt, “*Execute Against Japan*”: The U.S. Decision to Conduct Unrestricted Submarine Warfare, Williams-Ford Texas A&M University Military History Series 121 (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2009).

Peer-Reviewed Historical Articles or Chapters

Commander Joel Holwitt, “Lessons from Admiral Elmo,” *Naval History* 34, no. 6 (December 2020): 36-41.

Published version of Chief of Naval Operations 2020 Naval History Essay Contest winner “Regaining the Undisputed Supremacy at Sea”: Lessons from Admiral Elmo Zumwalt’s Priorities and Errors,” selected for 1st Place in the Professional Historian category by Dr. Dan Moran, Dr. Mark Folsom, Dr. David Kohnen, Dr. Scott Mobley, CAPT Calvin Foster, and Dr. Pete Haynes.

Commander Joel Holwitt, “Learn from Fleet Boat Development,” *Naval History* 34, no. 1 (February 2020): 34-41.

Published version of Chief of Naval Operations 2019 Naval History Essay Contest winner “America’s Future Navy Should Learn from Interwar Submarine Development,” selected for 3rd Place in the Professional Historian category by Dr. Richard Hulver, Dr. Daniel Moran, Dr. Mark Folsom, Dr. David Kohnen, CAPT Calvin Foster, USN, and Dr. A. Scott Mobley Jr.

Commander Joel Holwitt, “‘Confidence in His Team’,” *Naval History* 33, no. 5 (October 2019): 34-40.

Published version of Chief of Naval Operations 2019 Naval History Essay Contest winner “Confidence in His Team’: Slade Cutter, USS Seahorse, and Maintaining Maritime Superiority” selected for 1st Place in the Professional Historian category by Dr. Richard Hulver, Dr. Daniel Moran, Dr. Mark Folse, Dr. David Kohnen, CAPT Calvin Foster, USN, and Dr. A. Scott Mobley Jr.

Commander Joel Holwitt, “People Create High Velocity Outcomes,” *Naval History* 33, no. 1 (February 2019): 26-32.

Published version of Chief of Naval Operations 2018 Naval History Essay Contest winner “High Velocity Outcomes: People, Not Process,” selected for 2nd Place in the Professional Historian category by CAPT Bruce Stubbs, USCG (Ret.), Dr. Peter C. Luebke, CAPT Wayne P. Hughes Jr., USN (Ret.), CAPT Chris “Jethro” Rentfrow, USN, Dr. David Kohnen, Dr. Nicholas A. Lambert, and Dr. Robert Browning.

Joel I. Holwitt, “The Loss of USS *Thresher*: Technological and Cultural Change and the Cold War U.S. Navy,” *The Journal of Military History* 82, no. 3 (July 2018): 843-872.

Lieutenant Commander Joel Holwitt, “Recapturing the Interwar Navy’s Strategic Magic,” *Naval History* 31, no. 5 (October 2017): 26-33.

Published version of Chief of Naval Operations 2017 Naval History Essay Contest winner “Recapturing the Strategic Magic of the Interwar Navy,” selected for 1st Place in the Professional Historian category by ADM Pat Walsh, USN (Ret.) (Ph.D.), CDR Benjamin “BJ” Armstrong, USN (Ph.D.), Dr. John Hattendorf, Dr. Craig Symonds, Dr. Charles Neimeyer, and Mr. James F. McCarthy.

Joel Holwitt, “Unrestricted Submarine Victory: The U.S. Submarine Campaign against Japan,” in *Commerce Raiding: Historical Case Studies, 1755-2009*, Naval War College Newport Papers no. 40, ed. by Bruce A. Elleman and S. C. M. Paine (Newport: Naval War College Press, 2013), 225-238.

Joel I. Holwitt, “Reappraising the Interwar U.S. Navy,” *The Journal of Military History* 76, no. 1 (January 2012): 193-210.

Articles or Chapters in Professional Journals or Books

Captain Joel I. Holwitt, “The Evolution of ‘Mister Roberts’,” *Naval History* 39, no. 5 (October 2025): 42-49.

Captain Joel I. Holwitt, USN, and Captain Robert Dain, USN (Ret.), “A Submarine Commander’s Guide to Victory in the Shipyard,” *The Submarine Review*, (June 2025): 13-34.

Captain Joel I. Holwitt, “*The Bridge on the River Kwai*: Essential Viewing for Leaders at the Shipyard,” U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings* 150, no. 10 (October 2024),

<https://www.usni.org/magazines/proceedings/2024/october/bridge-river-kwai-essential-viewing-leaders-shipyard>.

Captain Joel I. Holwitt, “Thanks for Everything, *Mister Roberts*,” U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings* 150, no. 10 (October 2024): 36-40.

Commander Joel I. Holwitt, “The Navy is Not Ready to be Paperless,” U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings* 148, no. 12 (December 2022): 16.

Commander Joel I. Holwitt, “A New Approach to Submarine Officer Retention,” U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings* 148, no. 10 (October 2022): 20-25.

Commander Joel I. Holwitt, “In-Port/Shipyard Submarine Firefighting Lessons Learned,” *The Submarine Review*, (September 2022): 112-120.

Commander Joel I. Holwitt and Captain Mary K. Hays, “Every Sailor a Firefighter,” U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings* 148, no. 8 (August 2022): 50-54.

Commander Joel I. Holwitt, “The Navy Needs to Chart a New Course,” U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings* 147, no. 1 (January 2021): 12-13.

Commander Joel I. Holwitt, “Help Wanted: Tactical Planners,” U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings* 146, no. 8 (August 2020): 68-72.

Commander Joel I. Holwitt, “Sub vs. Sub: ASW Lessons from the Cold War,” U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings* 145, no. 10 (October 2019): 16-20.

Commander Joel I. Holwitt, “Let’s Restore the Navy Jack,” U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings* 145, no. 2 (February 2019): 93.

Lieutenant Commander Joel Holwitt, “The Submarine History Reading List for Submariners,” *The Submarine Review*, (August 2016): 98-108.

Lieutenant Commander Joel I. Holwitt, “Humanities or STEM? It’s a False Choice,” U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings* 140, no. 7 (July 2014): 12.

Vice Admiral John M. Richardson and Lieutenant Joel Ira Holwitt, “Preparing for Today’s Undersea Warfare,” U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings* 138, no. 6 (June 2012): 16-23; also published in *The Submarine Review*, (Spring 2012): 25-39.

Lieutenant Joel Ira Holwitt, “What Happened to the Atlantic Fleet?” U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings* 138, no. 6 (June 2012): 12.

Lieutenant Joel I. Holwitt, “Holy Mackerel, Not Again!” U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings* 137, no. 6 (June 2011): 36-41; also published in *The Submarine Review*, (July 2011): 61-71.

Lieutenant Joel I. Holwitt, “Let’s Resolve the *Scorpion* Mystery,” U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings* 135, no. 6 (June 2009): 10.

Lieutenant (junior grade) Joel Ira Holwitt, “A Knight for a Castle: Captain Frederick Marryat, RN, and *The King’s Own*,” in *Leadership Explored: Lessons in Leadership from Great Works of Literature*, ed. by Joseph J. Thomas (Virginia Beach: AcademX Publishing, 2006), 158-167.

Lieutenant (junior grade) Joel I. Holwitt, “Good Writing Matters,” U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings* 132, no. 5 (May 2006): 118.

Ensign Joel I. Holwitt, “Slade D. Cutter: Teamwork,” in *Leadership Embodied: The Secrets to Success of the Most Effective Navy and Marine Corps Leaders*, ed. by Lieutenant Colonel Joseph J. Thomas, U.S. Marine Corps (Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2005), 71-74.

Lori L. Bogle and Ensign Joel I. Holwitt, “The Best Quote Jones Never Wrote,” *Naval History* 18, no. 2 (April 2004): 18-23.

Ensign Joel I. Holwitt, “Mush Morton and the *Buyo Maru* Massacre,” U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings* 129, no. 7 (July 2003): 80-81.

Book Reviews

Joel I. Holwitt, review of *Against the Tide: Rickover’s Leadership Principles and the Rise of the Nuclear Navy*, by Rear Admiral Dave Oliver, *The Journal of Military History* 79, no. 2 (April 2015): 541-543.

Joel I. Holwitt, review of *Always at War: Organizational Culture in Strategic Air Command, 1946–62* by Melvin G. Deaile, *Michigan War Studies Review* 2020-039 (29 April 2020).

Joel I. Holwitt, review of *America’s First General Staff: A Short History of the Rise and Fall of the General Board of the U.S. Navy, 1900–1950* by John T. Kuehn, *Michigan War Studies Review* 2019-005 (16 January 2019).

Joel I. Holwitt, review of *America’s Sailors in the Great War: Seas, Skies, and Submarines*, by Lisle A. Rose, *The Journal of Military History* 81, no. 3 (July 2017): 902-903.

Joel I. Holwitt, review of *Atrocity, Deviance, and Submarine Warfare: Norms and Practices during the World Wars*, by Nachman Ben-Yehuda, *The Journal of Military History* 78, no. 1 (January 2014): 401-402.

Joel I. Holwitt, review of *Battleship Commander: The Life of Vice Admiral Willis A. Lee Jr.* by Paul Stillwell, *Michigan War Studies Review* 2022-074 (18 July 2022).

Joel I. Holwitt, review of *Emergency Deep: Cold War Missions of a Submarine Commander* by Alfred Scott McLaren, *Michigan War Studies Review* 2022-033 (23 March 2022).

Joel I. Holwitt, review of *A Grave Misfortune: The USS Indianapolis Tragedy*, by Richard A. Hulver and Peter C. Luebke, *The Journal of Military History* 84, no. 2 (April 2020): 637-639.

Lieutenant Joel I. Holwitt, review of *An Honorable German*, by Charles McCain, *The Submarine Review*, (October 2010): 140-142.

Joel I. Holwitt, review of *Long Night of the Tankers: Hitler's War against Caribbean Oil*, by David J. Bercuson and Holger H. Herwig, *The Journal of Military History* 78, no. 4 (October 2014): 1470-1472.

Lieutenant Joel I. Holwitt, review of *My Nuclear Family: A Coming-of-Age in America's 21st Century Military*, by Christopher Brownfield, *U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings* 137, no. 2 (February 2011): 72.

Joel I. Holwitt, review of *The Neptune Factor: Alfred Thayer Mahan and the Concept of Sea Power*, by Nicholas A. Lambert, H-War, H-Net Reviews (15 April 2025), <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=61229>.

Joel I. Holwitt, review of *Planning for War at Sea: 400 Years of Great Power Competition*, edited by Evan Wilson and Paul M. Kennedy, H-War, H-Net Reviews (27 January 2026), <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=62352>.

Joel I. Holwitt, review of *The Search for the Japanese Fleet: USS Nautilus and the Battle of Midway*, by David W. Jourdan, *The Journal of Military History* 80, no. 1 (January 2016): 279-280.

J. I. Holwitt, review of *Stalking the U-Boat: U.S. Naval Aviation in Europe during World War I*, by Geoffrey L. Rossano, *The Journal of Military History* 75, no. 3 (July 2011): 939-940.

Joel Ira Holwitt, review of *Surface and Destroy: The Submarine Gun War in the Pacific*, by Michael Sturma, *The Journal of Military History* 77, no. 1 (January 2013): 376-377.

Joel Ira Holwitt, review of *Surface and Destroy: The Submarine Gun War in the Pacific*, by Michael Sturma, *Military History of the West* 41 (2011): 84-85.

Joel I. Holwitt, review of *To Fix a National Character: The United States in the First Barbary War, 1800-1805*, by Abigail G. Mullen, H-War, H-Net Reviews (23 September 2025), <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=61676>

Lieutenant Joel I. Holwitt, review of *Undersea Warrior: The World War II Story of "Mush" Morton and the USS Wahoo*, by Don Keith, *The Submarine Review*, (Winter 2012): 153-156.

Commander Joel Holwitt, review of *The USS Swordfish: The World War II Patrols of the First American Submarine to Sink a Japanese Ship*, by George J. Billy, *Naval History* 34, no. 4 (August 2020): 60.

Lieutenant Joel I. Holwitt, review of *War by Land, Sea and Air: Dwight Eisenhower and the Concept of Unified Command*, by David Jablonsky, U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings* 136, no. 11 (November 2010): 65.

Presentations

“Recapturing the Interwar Navy's Strategic Magic,” 8 May 2025, Pentagon Navy Flag/SES Strategy Synch, Arlington, VA (via video teleconference from Ledyard, CT).

“Unrestricted Submarine Warfare: History, Ethics, and Relevance,” 16 December 2024, Professional Development Training, Naval Leadership and Ethics Center, Newport, RI.

“Undersea Warfare: History and Perspective,” 22 August 2023, Submarine Force Judge Advocate General (JAG) Conference, San Diego, CA (via video teleconference from Norfolk, VA).

“Undersea Warfare: History and Perspective,” 3 May 2023, Junior Officer Undersea Symposium & Training, Submarine Group 2, Norfolk, VA.

“Non-Traditional Acoustic Communication Innovation and Multi-Platform Tactics,” 14 May 2019, Submarine Technology Symposium, Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, Laurel, MD. Sole presenter, presentation co-authored by LT Mike Martin and LT Mike Moberg (UWDC TAG), Małgorzata Rattay (Naval Undersea Warfare Center), and John Waterston (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency).

“Undersea Warfighting Development Center Tactical Analysis Group Capability Development Priorities,” 15 November 2018, A2/AD Assured Power Projection Technology Workshop, Lincoln Laboratory, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Lexington, MA.

“Unrestricted Submarine Warfare: Historical Origins,” 1 November 2018, Humanities and Technology Association Conference, Salve Regina University, Newport, RI.

“Naval Nuclear Propulsion and the Space Age,” 2 October 2018, Nuclear Energy, Naval Propulsion, and National Security Symposium, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, DC.

“‘Execute Against Japan’: U.S. Unrestricted Submarine Warfare and the Defeat of Japan,” 22 November 2013, International World War II Conference, Hyatt Regency Hotel, New Orleans, LA.

“‘Execute Against Japan’: The U.S. Decision to Conduct Unrestricted Submarine Warfare,” 10 September 2010, Naval Submarine League Groton Chapter, Submarine Veterans Building, Groton, CT.

“‘Execute Against Japan’: The U.S. Decision to Conduct Unrestricted Submarine Warfare,” 6 May 2010, 8 Bells Book Lecture Series, U.S. Naval War College Museum, Newport, RI.

Podcasts

“Episode 420: Essential Films for Shipyard Leadership,” 25 October 2024, U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings* Podcast, <https://www.usni.org/magazines/proceedings/the-proceedings-podcast/ep-420-essential-films-shipyard-leadership>.

“Episode 282: Build Firefighting Proficiency in the Navy,” 18 August 2022, U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings* Podcast, <https://www.usni.org/magazines/proceedings/the-proceedings-podcast/proceedings-podcast-ep-282-build-firefighting>.

“Episode 199 - Lessons from Elmo Zumwalt,” 18 December 2020, U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings* Podcast, <https://www.usni.org/the-proceedings-podcast/episode-199-lessons-elmo-zumwalt>.

“Episode 113 - Cold War ASW Lessons and Slade Cutter,” 16 October 2019, U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings* Podcast, <https://www.usni.org/magazines/proceedings/the-proceedings-podcast/episode-113-cold-war-asw-lessons-and-slade-cutter>.

AWARDS

Naval Submarine League 2025 Literary Award First Place by an Active Duty Author.

Naval Submarine League 2022 Literary Award Second Place by an Active Duty Author.

Chief of Naval Operations 2020 Naval History Essay Contest: 1st Place in the Professional Historian category

Chief of Naval Operations 2019 Naval History Essay Contest: 1st Place in the Professional Historian category

Chief of Naval Operations 2019 Naval History Essay Contest: 3rd Place in the Professional Historian category

Chief of Naval Operations 2018 Naval History Essay Contest: 2nd Place in the Professional Historian category

Chief of Naval Operations 2017 Naval History Essay Contest: 1st Place in the Professional Historian category

Virginia Military Institute Adams Center for Military History 2016 Cold War Essay Contest: 2nd Place

Naval Submarine League 2016 Literary Award First Place by an Active Duty Author

U.S. Naval Institute Commander William Earl Fanin, Class of 1945, Capstone Essay Contest

Naval Order of the United States 2003 U.S. Naval Academy Essay Contest

Naval Order of the United States 2002 U.S. Naval Academy Essay Contest

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