One of six related documents intended for the Air Force officer, the enlisted man, or the civilian, this reading guide contains an annotated list of 26 publications that support Project Warrior and provide information about military history and the Air Force heritage. The books are listed in sequence according to a reading ease index, which considers the writing style, language, and content and rates each book as easy, average, or difficult. (EL)
INTRODUCTION

I strongly recommend to you the 1984 Air University Suggested Professional Reading Guide. It contains a list of publications that are important to you as an Air Force professional officer, enlisted, or civilian. The topics support PROJECT WARRIOR and will help each of us to know more about our military history and our Air Force heritage. These books are available in your base library, or they can get them for you. You can, of course, buy them from a commercial service.

To help you use the Guide, the Air University staff had developed a reading ease index and listed the books in a recommended reading sequence. The reading ease index considers the writing style, language, and content, and rates each book as easy, average, or difficult. The reading sequence starts with three books rated as easy. The first book provides a set of military principles, the second an analysis of human conduct in war, and the third addresses military leadership. The next few books provide a chronological review of warfare up to Vietnam. Following that, you'll examine our strongest potential adversary, the USSR. You'll finish the list by reading some of the more difficult books that touch on the theory of war and defense issues in the political arena.

The list is not all-inclusive, nor do all the views expressed in these writings have the endorsement of the Air Force or Air University. However, these readings will contribute significantly to your professional knowledge and should spur your interest in reading more books related to our profession.

I encourage you to comment on the Guide. Please send your comments to Headquarters Air University, DCS/Education, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama 36112.

The opening verse of Sun Tzu's classic work, The Art of War, says "War is a grave concern of the state; it must be thoroughly studied." This reading guide will give you a good start.

C. C. Cleveland
Lieutenant General
Chief of Staff
United States Air Force
Commander
Air University

READING EASE INDEX

E = EASY
A = AVERAGE
D = DIFFICULT

BEST COPY AVAILABLE
major developments in society, politics, and technology that led from feudal to modern warfare. (A)


8. Weigley, Russell F. *The American Way of War*. Bloomington, IN: IU Press, 1977. This is probably the most readable military history of the U.S. The Weigley thesis divides our strategic thought into two categories. The first, annihilation as practiced by Grant and Eisenhower in the broad-front, wear down of the enemy, is cited as "the American way." The second American strategy is that of attrition, as practiced by George Washington, Winfield Scott, and Geronimo. This second strategy is not "the American way" in Weigley's view but deserves more attention than it gets. (A)


10. Copp, DeWitt S. *A Few Great Captains*. New York: Doubleday, 1980. Written under the auspices of the Air Force Historical Foundation, this is a history of pre-WW II U.S. airpower that catches the drama and excitement of that early era. (A)


12. Liddell Hart, B. H. *History of the Second World War*. New York: G. P. Putnam's sons, 1972. Sir Basil Liddell Hart was one of the greatest military thinkers of the twentieth century, and his ideas, particularly on the role of mechanized warfare, revolutionized the art of war. (A)

13. van Creveld, Martin L. *Supplying War: Logistics from Wallenstein to Patton*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1979. Examines the practical art of moving armies and keeping them supplied. The author initially surveys the logistical practices of the 17th and 18th centuries and then closely examines six major campaigns from Napoleon against Russia to that of the Allies in Normandy. (E)


19. Osgood, Robert E. *Limited War Revisited*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1979. The author examines the development of limited war strategy since the end of WW II. In particular, he focuses on the impact of that strategy on the Vietnam conflict and a limited war scenario in Central Europe. He also offers a comprehensive discussion on the types of conflict most likely to occur in the future. (A)

20. Baker, David. *The Shape of Wars to Come*. New York: Stein and Day, 1982. The author is a technical information consultant to NASA and has been deeply involved in future mission planning. He describes the work presently going on in anti-satellite techniques, discusses the possibilities of lasers and charged-particle-beam weapons, and speculates on the ultimate threats from space. (A)

21. Whiting, Kenneth R. *The Development of the Soviet Armed Forces, 1917-1977*. Maxwell AFB, AL: Air University Printing Plant, 1977. After providing an introduction to Russian military heritage from Medieval Russia through World War I, Dr. Whiting traces the development of the Soviet armed forces from a "ragged group of Red Guards" in 1917 to one of the mightiest armed forces in history. The book concludes with chapters which detail the organization and deployment of Soviet forces and provide a projection of Soviet military power. (A)


23. Douglass, Joseph D., Jr., and Hoeber, Amoreta M. *Soviet Strategy for Nuclear War*. Stanford, CA: Hoover Institution Press, 1979. This book is based on Soviet military literature available in the West. It reveals how the Soviet Union is using and planning to use its growing military power, both conventional and strategic, as an instrument of imperial expansion. (A)

