

A TALE OF NAVAL INTRIGUE, HUMOR, ADVENTURE, AND ROMANCE

This book, authored by a veteran and distinguished naval officer, points out the unintended consequences of misguided social experiments more poignantly and effectively than could endless policy papers or hours of Congressional testimony. At the same time, it offers an unforgettable story of true heroism in the persons of Captain Yorel, YN3 Lain Byrd, and Seaman Apprentice Sam Ellis, among others. These men, though starkly different, share a dedication to their Country and their duty. *Constant Bearing – Decreasing Range* is not just a captivating novel based on actual people and events, but is a much needed wake-up call to government officials and their academic brethren whose record in international policy demonstrates that there is something yet to be learned from past mistakes.

What Readers Are Saying:

"This debut novel by Skip Vogel will recommend it to readers of military fiction of the Tom Clancy variety. This quite remarkable novel will have an appeal to anyone interested in good, old-fashioned storytelling. Vogel displays remarkable skill in handling and developing a diversity of plot elements and characters. Nothing, however small, gets pushed aside by his discerning pen. Vogel's storytelling skills shine particularly brightly in his ability to handle character. Very few writers have managed to achieve it; among contemporaries, only a John Irving, or a Stephen King, or a Kurt Vonnegut, can accomplish such a task." – **New York Times best-selling author Ellen Tanner Marsh**

A captivating, action-packed read. "Twenty-year Navy veteran Skip Vogel's *Constant Bearing* is a novel based on true-life ramifications of President Lyndon Johnson's ill-advised choice to swell the American military's ranks by allowing criminals to join. [The book] focuses upon the personal story of one high-risk sailor named Sam, as the military strives to shape him into a true soldier without jeopardizing the success of its mission. A captivating, action-packed read with insights about the dangers of lowering military recruitment standards too low that are immediately relevant." – **Midwest Book Review (Oregon, WI)**

Well written, makes you think. "The aircraft carrier USS UNION is the stage on which Vogel's story plays out. It's the 1970's, and several civilian judiciary systems have allowed criminals to serve in the military. Vogel does an excellent job of capturing the leadership challenges involved, and also the frustration of the lead characters as they fight not only a criminal element, but a Navy that is more concerned with political correctness than national defense. Well written and engrossing, this book illustrates the conflict that sometimes ensues between public policy and defending this Country." – **R. Ballister, author, *God Does Have a Sense of Humor***

"After reading Skip Vogel's *Constant Bearing* my response was WOW! AWESOME!! The storyline will speak to every person who wore the uniform in that time of radical change and turbulence. Vogel captures a plethora of human emotions, couched within a context of humor, human conflict, compassion, intrigue, trust, and romance. The novel comes to a dramatic conclusion. Tears will come to the reader's eyes when experiencing the powerful resolution of wounds being healed. Greater tears will come when realizing that the collision course between Public Policy and National Defense was not resolved, neither then nor now." – **Walter D. Volz, Captain, USNR**

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precise figures are not available. It is believed that over a thousand chose not to participate in the evacuation of 263 U.S. nationals from Athens aboard a Navy landing ship. Department spokesman Frederick said there are no immediate plans for a similar operation, but "if the situation deteriorates, we would be prepared to

...a Navy assault ship ferrying 267 evacuees from Lebanon to Greece. A U.S. Embassy spokesman said the time of arrival at the ancient port of Piraeus about six miles south of Athens, was rescheduled for 9 a.m., nearly three hours later than previously announced. "That's the only hitch so far," the spokesman said. Meteorological sources in Crete reported high north winds on the Mediterranean,

Skip Vogel with JD Hamilton

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