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SO IT BEGINS TWICE-HONORED AS FINALIST FOR INDIE BOOK AWARD

HOWELL, NJ – Dark Quest, LLC and Editor Mike McPhail would like to announce that *So It Begins*, a military science fiction anthology combining some of the biggest names in the genre with some of its rising stars, has been selected as a finalist in two categories for the Next Generation Indie Book Award, once for Best Anthology and once for Best Short Stories – Fiction. The collection officially releases at Balticon, a major East Coast science fiction convention held in Baltimore over Memorial Day weekend. The Indie Book Award recognizes and helps promote outstanding published works by independent and small-press authors and publishers.

Contributors to *So It Begins* include Jack Campbell (*The Lost Fleet* series), John C. Wright (*The Golden Age, Orphans of Chaos*), Bud Sparhawk (*Vixen*), David Sherman (the *Starfist* series, the *Demontech* series), CJ Henderson (*Brooklyn Knights*), Jonathan Maberry (*Patient Zero*), Mike McPhail (*Defending the Future* series, *The Alliance Archives*), Charles E. Gannon (*Traveller*), James Daniel Ross (*The Radiation Angels* series), James Chambers (*The Midnight Hour* series), Jeffrey Lyman (the *Bad-Ass Faeries* series), Andy Remic (*Biohell*), Patrick Thomas (*Murphy's Lore* series), Tony Ruggiero (*Team of Darkness* series), and Danielle Ackley-McPhail (*The Eternal Cycle* series).

This is not McPhail's first award-winning title; *Breach the Hull*, the first book in the *Defending the Future* series, was winner of the 2007 Dream Realm Award for Best Anthology and finalist for the same award for Best Cover Art. This is an auspicious beginning for this series, for which the third book, *By Other Means*, is already planned for a 2010 release.

"I am very proud of the authors and staff involved in this project," says publisher Neal Levin. "This recognition reinforces what I was already aware of: we have a great team and I expect to see future projects gain larger acclaim."

Dark Quest, LLC picked up the series when the previous publisher, Marietta Publishing ceased operations due to health concerns. They are looking forward to a long, successful run for the series.

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If you'd like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview with any of the participants, please call Danielle McPhail at 856-669-7395 or e-mail to greenfirephoenix@aol.com.