FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Reader,

Æther: A Journal of Strategic Airpower & Spacepower is privileged to publish this out-of-cycle issue in support of US Space Command and space-focused professional military education across the Department of Defense. First, I would like to offer my deepest gratitude to Miller Belmont and Ben Zweibelson for their work as guest editors of this volume. The processes of acquisition, vetting, peer review, and author revisions are a bit like the proverbial cat-herding. Their success in these endeavors over the past year is evident in the following pages.

In the issue's **Special Feature**, former Deputy Commander of US Space Command Lieutenant General John Shaw, USSF, Retired, is joined by Daniel Bourque and Marcus Shaw in a call for a new paradigm of manuever, dynamic space operations, supported by sustained space maneuver capabilities, as positional space operations are no longer tenable in the contested, congested space domain.

Shawn Willis leads our **Strategy** forum. He details China's increasing space capabilities and its cislunar plans in particular, and recommends space strategies and future force designs based on improved space domain awareness, especially in the cislunar region. In the second article in the forum, Ben Staats argues a longer view of the rise of airpower, dating back to the late eighteenth century, is analogous to the ebb and flow of the modern Space Age from the 1960s to current space weaponization efforts. In the last article in the forum, Aaron Blore urges the Space Force to redefine its mission toward achieving victory in space as opposed to pursuing a goal of responsiveness. In an analysis of the tactically responsive space program, he finds ongoing misalignment between doctrinal terms and those used in operational plans and strategy.

In the first article of the **Classification and Intelligence Challenges** forum, Chris James proposes adapting regulations and leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) to overcome US Space Force acquisition challenges, particularly those rooted in overclassification, barriers to entry, and antiquated information systems. The second article, by Devon Brown, Danielle Ciesielki, and Duli Chand, finds that AI and ML decision support system statistical models can augment collection capabilities, data repositories, and threat analysis in support of more timely and relevant information for decisionmakers. In the third and final article in the forum, Alex Fiore outlines the threats posed by adversary orbital antisatellite (ASAT) systems. He argues the United States should acknowledge some of its own orbital ASAT

capabilities for deterrence, while keeping classified its more specialized systems to preserve defensive capabilities, despite the resulting reduced effect on deterrence.

The final forum, **Deterrence**, leads with an article by Ron Gurantz acknowledging the importance of targeting terrestrial assets that support space systems. Considering the role symbolism plays in deterrence and messaging, he suggests the United States could create symbolic relationships between acts of space aggression and terrestrial targets. The issue and this forum closes with Alex Turpin's examination of deterrence theory and a study of Able Archer 83 to gain insights into a successful approach to deterrence in space that includes stratified deterrence, dissuasion deterrence, control of space, and resilience.

Thank you for taking the time to read our special space-focused issue. We are pleased to promote these military scholars' ideas and recommendations, and we appreciate your continued readership and support of the journal. **Æ**

~The Editor

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