

FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Reader,

As of this writing, Russia's war in Ukraine continues, now halfway through its second year. Cities and countrysides, and the human lives within them, have been uprooted or destroyed, and changed forever. The suspected sabotage in early June by Russia of a major dam on the Dnipro River is only the most recent example of Russian leaders' persistent disregard for loss of life and international laws pertaining to noncombatants. This disregard for international conventions and for historical international norms is perhaps most clearly seen in Russian President Vladimir Putin's threats to employ nuclear weapons.

Accordingly, our summer issue leads with a *Special Commentary* by James McCue, Adam Lowther, and James Davis, who compare the effects of low-yield tactical nuclear weapons with conventional precision-guided munitions and conclude both contribute to deterrence in important ways. Our *Strategic Messaging* forum begins with Brandon Colas' analysis of the likelihood that Putin will rationalize the choice to deploy non-strategic nuclear weapons based on three propositions found in US strategic messaging and global beliefs about the implications for a Russian loss to Ukraine. Max Schreiber concludes the forum with a historical analysis that argues for clear, direct strategic messaging about America's goals in space, delivered by US senior leaders as well as by the US Space Force.

Russia's war in Ukraine, following the global pandemic, has only underscored the reality we are globally interconnected and thus interdependent across nation-state lines in countless ways. Phillip Meilinger leads our *War in an Era of Global Dependence* forum with a discussion of the application of lessons learned from North America's own history of tribal conflict to the challenge of promoting peace globally in places plagued by internecine cultural and tribal conflict today, a challenge that can be addressed using particular tools under international consensus. In the second part of the forum, Peter Layton proposes airpower thinkers must reconsider twentieth-century supply chain warfare, engaging a systems analysis of the contemporary supply chain, which is characterized by semi-openness, multiple causality, and dispersed nodes.

Our issue ends with our *Tech Challenges* forum. Ian Heffron, Mark Reith, and James Dean employ a DOTMLPF-P analysis framework to argue for the creation of a

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separate cyber force, consistent with the historical models of separate forces for the doctrinal domains of warfare, seen most recently in the establishment of the US Space Force.

Thank you for taking the time to read this issue of *Æther*. As always, we welcome and encourage informed, scholarly responses, from 1,000 to 2,000 words including the notes, to our articles. These can be submitted to the journal via our email address. **Æ**

~ The Editor

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