

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Reader,

Thank you for taking time to become acquainted with *Air & Space Operations Review* (*ASOR*). As you may know, *ASOR* is the new name of the flagship peer-reviewed, operations-focused journal of the Department of the Air Force, most recently published under the name *Air & Space Power Journal*. From solid beginnings in 1947 as *Air University Quarterly Review*—just over six months prior, in fact, to the establishment of the US Air Force as a separate service—*ASOR* marks three quarters of a century of Air Force, other service, and civilian scholarship on the subjects of airpower and spacepower operations, strategy, doctrine, leadership, technological innovation, force structure, and national security concerns.

The journal could not have foreseen the events unfolding in Ukraine this spring and the unprovoked death and destruction committed against a free Ukrainian nation at the direction of Russian president Vladimir Putin. Contributions to our spring issue, however, have direct relevance to the war, covering topics such as information warfare, Joint targeting, and prospects of nuclear war.

James Davitch leads our articles with a proposal to form special information fires teams composed of military members skilled in global geopolitics, predictive analyses, metacognitive tools and theory, open-source information collection, and internal and external communication and messaging. Brian Fry argues uniformed scientists and engineers are uniquely suited to link technical possibilities to operational realities. Developing these capabilities will help uniformed scientists and engineers maximize their contributions to the acquisition community and to the combat power of the Air Force. Concluding our articles, Jonathan Corrado presents a strategy to mitigate the myriad risks posed by the US military's dependence upon commercial satellite communications architecture. These risks include protection, control, reliability, interoperability, and access.

Our commentaries begin with Raj Agrawal and Aaron Brooks, who make the case that the Department of the Air Force should be renamed to the Department of the Air and Space Forces. This would explicitly signal a coequal status between the leads for the air and space military domains. Jan Kallberg, Todd Arnold, Stephen Hamilton, and Mark Visger explain that the emergence of deepfakes has challenged long-standing protocols concerning prisoners of war in the Geneva Conventions. The United States, its Allies, and partners must educate service members about the potential exploitation of any recorded media obtained if they become prisoners of war.

Hugh Curry argues that when the Joint Warfighting Concept and digital initiatives are viewed through the lens of the Joint targeting enterprise, it is clear Joint targeting is the best way to achieve the Department of Defense's digital transformation. Louis René Beres concludes our issue with a passionate call to attend to the complex existential issues of nuclear war avoidance—a call indeed pertinent as the United States and its European Allies and partners face a security dilemma, and escalation and deterrence theories are being put to the test.

From the Editor

The journal's commitment to academic freedom remains stalwart: in the Spring 1947 issue, the first editor and editorial board observed, "if the appearance here of articles which may not agree with accepted policy, or even majority opinion, will stimulate discussion and provoke controversy, an important part of the journal's mission will have been accomplished: to induce Airmen to have original thoughts on these matters and to give these thoughts expression" (*Air University Quarterly Review*, Spring 1947, 94). As long as submissions are relevant, intellectually rigorous, accurate, and do not divulge classified information, the journal is committed to promoting views across the spectrum of conviction.

We are grateful for the readers of the professional journals of the Department of the Air Force: the *Journal of the Americas*, the *Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs*, *Æther: A Journal of Strategic Airpower & Spacepower*, and *ASOR*, as well as the books and papers published by Air University Press. Air University Press will continue to provide rigorous, scholarly publications that critically engage Air Force, US military, and national security strategy, policies, plans, and operations. ~ The Editor