



## ASPJ — Africa and Francophonie

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *Air and Space Power Journal–Africa and Francophonie* (ASPJ–A&F).

*Air and Space Power Journal* has published journals in English, Spanish and Portuguese since the 1940s. Editions in Arabic and French were launched in 2005, and a Chinese edition followed in 2007. Recognizing the importance of Africa and the broad French-speaking areas in the world, we are proud to announce the birth of ASPJ–A&F, a refinement of the current French edition. The enhanced edition will continue to reflect Air University’s philosophy of openness and transparency to the global community, which is the foundation of the Air Force Research Institute’s vision and mission. This evolutionary publication will inherit the French-language ASPJ’s network of libraries, research centers, government agencies, embassies, and so forth, in 103 countries, as well as a wide range of audiences in 32 francophone countries. The Africa and Francophonie edition will be published in French and English for readers in the African continent and French-speaking world: more than 80 countries.

Like its predecessor, ASPJ–A&F embodies the spirit of democratic ideals, intellectual independence, critical analysis, vigorous and scholarly research, and realistic methodologies. It continues the US Air Force tradition of intellectual curiosity unconstrained by scope, subject matter and prevailing thought relative to air, space and cyberspace power and employment. The new journal covers all areas of activity of the world’s air forces and the armed forces in general, as well as their operational environment, both national and international.

Air University and the Air Force Research Institute are proud of their history of developing air, space, and cyberspace power-projection concepts applicable to mutual national security and defense worldwide. In addition, the University and the Institute are fortunate to possess the capability to advance those conceptual tenets through vigorous research and education programs that span the professional military education continuum. We believe that professional development is greatly enhanced by the free exchange of information, ideas, and viewpoints with our allies and friends. Critical thought, intellectual discussions, and scholarly writing relative to the military profession increase the range of potential solutions to the international challenges faced by our armed forces. Air University schools are internationally regarded for developing warrior-scholars, and the various editions of the *Air and Space Power Journal* provide a credible and well-recognized forum for advancing the innovative and rigorously tested ideas of our students. The *Journal* also provides an excellent venue for extending the international security dialogue globally, and we therefore encourage our readers to employ these publications to enrich that dialogue. We welcome the opportunity to consider unsolicited work from our readers.

All editions of ASPJ encourage and promote professional dialogue among the world’s airmen and soldiers in order to showcase the best ideas to be exploited by air and space forces fulfilling national and international objectives. Our goal is to provide a forum for aviators, members of the armed forces and specialists in African Affairs and Francophonie to discuss subjects of common interest; stimulate new ideas that will make the best use of air, space and cyberspace power; and encourage military professionalism.

This new publication reflects the importance we place on our military and civilian colleagues. We believe we can greatly benefit from their innovative and strategic thinking. It focuses on the specific needs and various interests of African and French-speaking militaries around the world. Again, we encourage our readers to recognize the importance of global engagement in the current international environment and to employ the *ASPJ-A&F* to spur that necessary engagement. We hope to exchange ideas, compare experiences, and explore new opportunities with the airmen, soldiers, and experts from all countries with the aim of advancing the skills of the world's armed forces.

There are a wide range of relevant and important ideas that must be examined in depth—even debated vigorously— at a time when the military profession is undergoing significant changes to its perspective, equipment, structure, and probable methods for conducting future operations. I therefore hope that our exchanges, which are the substance of this journal, would be frank and open.

*ASPJ-A&F* seeks to maintain openness and share knowledge with the world. It is a forum where different currents meet. We do not want to promote a preconceived idea or advocate a ready-made concept; rather, we are committed to providing the most accurate possible reflection of the world's armed forces. We are witnesses, not judges. Accordingly, *ASPJ-A&F* does not collate negative reviews—or polemic—nor is it journalism. That is why we chose simply to provide reading materials and entrust our readers with judgment and critique. Because this role also applies to other cultures and languages, we will continue to publish articles of substance as well as thought pieces, leaving the floor open to academics, aviators/soldiers of all ranks, experts, and civilian/military decision makers of various opinions and nationalities. In reality, this openness is a certain vocation of quest and discovery.

Rémy M. Mauduit, Editor  
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