



I had the honor and pleasure of participating in the “Angel of the Andes 2018” exercise last September in Colombia, with ninety-five members of our Air Force, and more than 400 participants from twelve nations, led by Colombia. Together, we overcame barriers such as language and different tactics, techniques, and procedures, in order to respond effectively to both military and civilian search and rescue scenarios. Many thanks go to our attentive hosts in Colombia, who demonstrated great professionalism by successfully carrying out an exercise of such a complex magnitude and importance.

Continuing with the theme of cooperation and solidarity with our partner countries’ Air Forces, we began this edition with the article, “Air Advisors teach the Colombian Air Force to ‘Self-Help’”, in which TSgt Darlene Byers, USAF, informed us how our air advisors strengthen our relations with Colombia and our partner countries in Latin America.

The need for great collaboration between civilian and military spheres for an adequate balance with the limited resource of the electromagnetic spectrum is the subject of our second article, “The Spectrum Behind the Information”, written by Major Guillermo Gonzáles Cucho, Peruvian Air Force.

In “Ecuador’s Leveraging of China to Pursue an Alternative Political and Development Path”, author R. Evan Ellis examines China’s relations with other populist socialist regimes and explains specifically how Ecuador offers important details about how China responds if its economic and other equities are questioned.

The problem of drugs in the United States is a very important issue because of the ramifications it has throughout Latin America. In the article “The U.S. Drug Issue: Not a lost Cause”, the author, Colonel Pedro Arnulfo Sánchez Suarez, Colombian Air Force, examines the main failed policies that the U.S. and its partners have implemented over the years and the changes that need to occur to counteract this great problem.

Major Manuel López-Lago, Spanish Air Force, explains to us in his article “The European Union Challenge as an Actor in Crisis and Conflict Management” how, even though the EU’s Permanent Structured Cooperation Accords (PESCO) has energized their military branch, the lack of a common European position calls into question the use of this branch in complex scenarios.

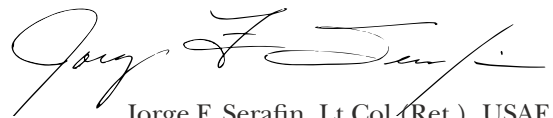
In “Operational tasks to optimize the Operational Performance of Special Forces in the valley of the Apurímac, Ene and Mantaro rivers”, Commander Oswal Sigüeñas Alvarado, Peruvian Air Force, identifies the operational tasks that should be to be employed, in order to be able to plan, prepare, and execute operations at the operational and tactical levels, in order to obtain desired results at the strategic level in this region.

One of the biggest challenges we have in our Air Force is how to grow future senior leaders. To elaborate on this topic and offer recommendations, the authors of the article “Improving How the Air Force Develops High-Potential Officers”, Major Steven T. Nolan, Jr., USAF, and Dr. Robert E. Overstreet, discuss approaches that the USAF could use to improve the manner in which it identifies, assesses, and develops high-potential (HiPo) officers.

Finally, the last two articles follow our custom of publishing articles on the growing role of Cyber and Space as new weapon platforms. In “Cyber War and Deterrence-Applying a General Theoretical Framework”, Lieutenant Colonel Mark Reith, USAF, PhD, and Captain Isaac Nacita, USAF, compare the different factors that cyber warfare has in common with past wars and suggest lessons learned. In his article “The Coming Revolution in Military Space Professionalism”, Dr. Brent Ziarnick proposes that space warriors be taught not only specialized knowledge in their field, but the general theory of space science as well.

In the words of Lieutenant General Paul Nakasone, the new head of the U.S. Cyber Command, “I believe it is possible for actions in cyberspace to have a deterrent effect and contribute to the Nation’s overall deterrence posture. Effective deterrence requires a whole-of-government ap-

proach, however, and cannot rely solely on efforts in cyberspace. The current level and tempo of cyber attacks is not tolerable. Our adversaries see opportunity for strategic advantage through continuous activity in the domain. We must act purposefully to frustrate their intentions, increase their costs, and decrease their likelihood of success.”

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jorge F. Serafin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

Jorge F. Serafin, Lt Col (Ret.), USAF
Editor, *Air & Space Power Journal-Español*