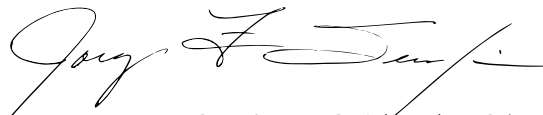


## EDITORIAL

This edition focuses on two main areas of study; three articles on Strategic Leadership and three articles on Language and Culture. Our first article on Strategic Leadership, “Climate Change as a Regional Security Issue,” written by R. Evan Ellis, PhD, US Army War College, analyzes the impacts of climate change on the roles and missions of the armed forces in Latin America. This is followed by an article from Marty J. Reep, Special Operations training manager, on “Preparing for US War with China—2025–2032.” Our last article on Strategic Leadership, “Realigning Puerto Rico—The Unified Command Plan through the Lens of Strategic Competition with China,” from Lt Col Wilberto Sanchez, NY ANG, discusses whether or not the Puerto Rico Air National Guard should be aligned under US Southern Command.

In our first article on Language and Culture, “Staying Left of the Language Boom—Language and Culture Training in the Cold,” author Jordan Eason, former Portuguese course director at the USAF Academy, argues for the revolution of specialized language training for Airmen and Guardians and challenges the Defense Language Proficiency Test training standard, which avoids fictional literature in the training of foreign languages. This is followed by an article by SMSgt Benjamin Steel, USAF, National Air and Space Intelligence Center, on “Raising Cultural Intelligence through Metacognition—Preparing Tomorrow’s Air Force for the Complexities of Cross-Cultural Engagement.”

Finally, we conclude with an article from authors 1st Lt Andres Anello, USAF, 482d Attack Squadron, and SSgt Marcos Alfonso, USAF, USNORTHCOM, “The Great Power of Culture—China’s Expansion into Latin America and the Caribbean,” which details the significant inroads China has made in Latin America and the Caribbean through the lens of the instruments of national power.



Jorge F. Serafin, Lt Col (Ret.), USAF  
*Editor, USAF Journal of the Americas*