

Ideas—The Essential Elements for Strategic Security in an Uncertain Future

Welcome to the first issue of *Strategic Studies Quarterly* (SSQ)—the US Air Force’s forum for exchanging ideas that matter for our nation’s security. Air University was established to develop our Air Force leaders as they prepare for the future. In support of that mission, we at Air University are committed to the exploration of ideas that foster engagement and growth within the defense community. This strategic journal is part of a larger set of initiatives designed to ensure that the ideas that are part and parcel of our national security debate do not become stagnant or conventional.

The most recent *Quadrennial Defense Review* described four strategic challenges that our nation faces: traditional, irregular, disruptive, and catastrophic. Our national security apparatus must transform to meet all of these challenges, and much of that transformation will require new ideas, organizations, and relationships among members of the military, government, and academia. Our vision is for SSQ to become an effective forum to foster those ideas and relationships.

Our staff—Dr. Anthony C. Cain, editor-in-chief; Ms. Tawanda Eaves, managing editor; Ms. Betty Littlejohn, editorial assistant; and the team at Air University Press—already has SSQ on a solid footing, as you will see in the contents of this inaugural issue. We will begin by publishing the printed journal each quarter while simultaneously offering an online version. Additionally, we will offer an electronic subscription service at <http://www.af.mil/subscribe> that will deliver SSQ to you via e-mail each quarter without delay.

Gen T. Michael Moseley, the Air Force chief of staff, has said, “We must ensure our war-fighting future.” SSQ contributes to this imperative by helping to develop relationships and by facilitating the exchange of ideas that will prepare us to confront the challenges facing our nation during these uncertain times.

We look forward to seeing an active, enthusiastic exchange of ideas that contributes directly to making our nation more secure, and we encourage you to bring ideas into this forum—to offer your views and proposals

here, where they will receive the serious consideration they deserve. We expect that some of the answers to the tough problems we will confront in the rapidly changing strategic environment will appear in the pages of this journal.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Lorenz', with a stylized flourish at the end.

STEPHEN R. LORENZ
Lieutenant General, USAF
Commander, Air University