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## From the Editor

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# From the Editor

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From *Parameters*, Summer 2001, pp. 2-3.

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## In this Issue . . .

Readers have a unique opportunity to benefit from insights related to the character and future of the US military, presented by some of America's most respected and seasoned (and some bright young less-seasoned) military and civilian intellectuals. A number of articles in this issue were derived from presentations at a symposium entitled "Citizens and Soldiers: Citizenship, Culture, and Military Service," sponsored by the Institute for the Study of Economic Culture and the Center for International Relations, both at Boston University, and the Ethics and Public Policy Center located in Washington, D.C. To complete the issue we have included a number of articles on similar themes penned by authors not associated with the conference.

In our lead article, before we delve into the citizen-soldiers theme, General Montgomery C. Meigs examines the qualities, virtues, and attributes expected of officers achieving flag officer status. His analysis, based on historical examples, offers a view of "generalship" that is seldom shared within the profession of arms. Originally presented at Fort Leavenworth as a tutorial for newly selected generals, the presentation was later given to the US Army War College Class of 2001. In response to a question from the audience at the latter, "Why are you telling this to us?"--General Meigs matter-of-factly replied--because many of you will be working directly with (or for) officers of flag rank, or you yourselves are wondering what constitutes successful generalship.

Elliott Abrams and Andrew J. Bacevich, co-chairs for the "Citizens and Soldiers" symposium, identify the major issues examined at the conference and provide their findings. This introduction sets the stage for the remaining articles and begins the examination of the conference's underlying thesis--What will it take to sustain the all-volunteer Army in today's society?

Eliot Cohen presents a reflective view of what constitutes the citizen-soldier in American society. His analysis of the tenets underlying service to the state leads to the conclusion that the term "citizen-soldier" is passé and persists only due to the myths associated with service. His conclusion--"Ours is no longer an army of citizen-soldiers. . . ."

Charles Moskos provides a social analysis of "what ails the all-volunteer force." His review of the values and norms underpinning the military institution highlights the difficulties encountered when trying to analyze the military component of society in terms, and with methodologies, normally reserved for the civilian sector. He proposes that our Army should do more to recruit college youths and college graduates into short-term enlisted service. He also seizes on one of the more controversial changes in the American military when he explains, "A particularly illuminating way to understand the trends in the contemporary armed services is to look at the role of women in the military." That theme will be revisited later in this issue.

James Burk examines the effects of the Vietnam War on the tradition of the citizen-soldier. The author posits that the inequities associated with the draft policy that placed young men in harm's way during that conflict led directly to the all-volunteer force. This was a drastic change that many feared would cause the military to cease to be representative of American society, a fear spawned from the belief that social representativeness was necessary to meet the egalitarian ideals of a democratic nation. Burk goes on to examine other attempts at ensuring a broad citizen-base in the military, including the reorganization of the reserves and the active-duty force in the 1970s that resulted in the "total force" concept. He concludes that the tradition of obligatory service is weaker today than before (and because of) the Vietnam War.

Peter Karsten presents the final conference manuscript with his look at citizen-soldiers from the past, present, and likely future. He builds on a thesis derived from the question, "Are we justified in describing current problems in recruiting an all-volunteer force as ones that signal the demise of the tradition of the citizen-soldier?" His detailed and

systematic analysis of the history surrounding the tradition of the citizen-soldier leads to a series of (sometimes controversial) recommendations on how to ensure a capable force for future generations.

Majors Kim Field and John Nagl address the question of women in combat, which, coincidentally, parallels an underlying theme of the "Citizens and Soldiers" conference. The authors make a "modest proposal" for an experiment that would see the standards-based integration of women into combat organizations. The authors make this proposal based on their belief that the military has no just reason to limit the rights of service members beyond the functional imperatives of military effectiveness.

Anna Simons provides an opposing view of women in combat units. Her examination of the issues surrounding the call for placing women in combat roles suggests that it is not always a question of fairness, but often of career. The author's professional and personal insights provide the reader with an understanding that women in combat roles may be less about rights and responsibilities, and more about rewards. She also addresses in some depth the crucial aspect of unit cohesion. To those who would advocate combat roles for women she poses the question, "How would the integration of women improve a combat unit's survivability and the defense of the United States?"

Lieutenant Matthew Morgan provides our final article examining the future of the military, with his analysis of Army recruiting and the dissonance found in the civilian and military sectors in American society. The author's examination of the factors affecting the relationship between military and civilian cultures leads to the conclusion that the military has become less of a protector against traditional threats, and more of a vehicle for advancing social goals. Morgan proposes a number of solutions ranging from increased education of military virtues at the highest levels of academe to permitting lateral entry by talented civilians at the executive and professional grades. His conclusion is that if we are to be successful in recruiting a quality force, senior leaders must first address those issues related to the overarching relationship between the military and American society.

*Review Essays* in this issue address three different topics. First, Craig Nation surveys what he terms "interim assessments" of the Kosovo conflict. Andrew Scobell reviews recent works on Asia and the potential for conflict there. And finally Sam Newland continues his series of reviews on the World War II period with an analysis of the German army during 1939-1945. -- RHT

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Reviewed 7 May 2001. Please send comments or corrections to [carl\\_Parameters@conus.army.mil](mailto:carl_Parameters@conus.army.mil)