From the Editor

Robert H. Taylor

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In this issue . . .

As the nation and its Army bring one theater of conflict to a close, we are again challenged with the conundrum of how best to “build the Army down.” That oxymoronic phrase was the mantra for America’s Army during the 1990s. Fortunately, such semantic slight-of-hand no longer disguises the reality of the numerous challenges to our national security. Phrases such as “doing more with less” and “working smarter, not harder” all fail to belie the realities of today’s volatile and uncertain world. How then do we prepare for this uncertain future? Tony Cho suggests it is by knowing the competition better. “Mao’s War of Resistance: Framework for China’s Grand Strategy” is the author’s attempt to distinguish between the strategies associated with Mao’s “resistance theory” and his “war of revolution concept” as they relate to the evolution of China’s grand strategy. Cho examines the ends, ways, and means supporting the three phases of Mao’s resistance warfare strategy to determine that China is pursuing this strategy in an effort to diplomatically and militarily counter what they believe is America’s hegemonic intent. He concludes that both the United States and China believe they are executing a strategy of “active defense.” The author cautions that the real danger, however, rests in the possibility that one side will misinterpret the other’s strategy as being assertive. Cho warns that it is imperative for US policymakers to understand the “war of resistance strategy,” so they might successfully develop their own unified counterstrategy. Lastly, he reminds us that the war of resistance strategy has implications far beyond the grand strategy level. It is applicable at the theater strategic, operational, and tactical levels as well.

Our second article in this issue is Dan G. Cox’s “Human Terrain Systems and the Moral Prosecution of Warfare.” The author highlights the fact that an understanding of cultural variables is playing an ever-increasing role in conflict mitigation. The recently developed and implemented Human Terrain System (HTS) Project is designed to provide the US military with greater cultural knowledge, facilitating military success in the moral prosecution of warfare. Greater understanding between western military forces and foreign cultures will give the military a deeper appreciation of not only the enemy culture but also that of their supporters. Cox examines the jus in bello and jus ad bellum arguments to determine that much of the criticism directed at HTS fails to account for the basic right of the nation and its soldiers to conduct moral warfare. He reminds the reader that there is a distinction between the justness of the declaration of war and the justness associated with the conduct of that war. The author focuses on the standards for soldiers who are prosecuting an honorable war and determines that, once again, the old standbys of “discrimination and proportionality” are the determining factors in the role that HTS may play in the prosecution of that conflict.

Our thematic feature, “Transforming War,” examines the world of cyberwarfare and network defenses. Ross Rustici provides our first article in the feature, “Cyberweapons: Leveling the International Playing Field.” This is
the author’s attempt to warn against the risks cyberweapons pose to networked societies, specifically the United States. Rustici analyzes the impact these weapons could have on a society and explores the possible limitations and challenges associated with the use of these new cyber capabilities. Due to the nature of these weapons, he believes that cyberattacks on critical infrastructure will be primarily for defensive purposes. This belief is based on the understanding that cyberweapons merely increase the cost of conflict for a particular adversary, and such weapons are unlikely to dissuade national security policies when core national interests are at stake. The most likely impact of cyberweapons will be to curtail the use of sanctioned interstate violence. Rustici concludes that such beliefs will certainly lead to a serious reconsideration of the concepts associated with global security and the human security initiative.

“A Strategic Approach to Network Defense: Framing the Cloud” is Timothy Buennemeyer’s analysis of the current Internet attack trends and a proposed enhanced framework for the strategic defense of corporate and federal networks. The author proposes a well-designed cloud computing environment capable of reducing the risks associated with attacks on US information systems, networks, and critical infrastructure. The author believes cyberspace, as the new global commons, is rapidly becoming ever-more complex and volatile. This will be an environment where governments, businesses, and individuals need to balance access to information against confidentiality and availability. Buennemeyer proposes a cloud computing environment capable of meeting the challenges associated with evolving capabilities and the mediums of cyberspace. He readily admits that there may be a requirement to counter the additional security risks associated with cloud environments. The author concludes by reminding the reader that the primary reasons for adopting this new cloud environment are rapid scalability and flexibility. A well-designed cloud computing environment will provide the user with an opportunity to change the balance back in favor of the defense, while at the same time reducing costs and improving service.

David E. Fitzkee examines a topic that is certain to only gain greater notice as the courts and the military attempt to understand and articulate the ability to speak freely and at the same time exercise freedom of religion within the armed forces. “Religious Speech in the Military: Freedoms and Limitations” is the author’s attempt to address what military leaders need to know about the rights and limitations associated with religious speech, both their subordinates and their own. The author tells us that honoring the constitutional rights of subordinates is the “right thing to do” in a society and military governed by the rule of law. Fitzkee determines that freedom of speech is a bedrock constitutional right, one that enjoys great protection in the courts. What this means for leaders is that they should not attempt to single out religious speech just because it is religious. He reviews a number of key court cases and highlights the 1993 decision of Congress to offset an earlier 1986 Supreme Court case with the passage of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. What makes this article of special interest is the lists of principles for subordinates and leaders on which the author builds his conclusion.
Our final article in this issue is Charles D. Allen’s “Assessing the Army Profession.” The article is based on a previous examination of the health of America’s Army following a decade of conflict. Not disregarding the various polls and pronouncements of support on behalf of political leaders and the American people, the author examines some of the underlying faults and indicators of systemic weakness within the institution. He refers to these systemic weaknesses as signals and signposts and utilizes specific events to make the case that after a decade of war America needs to be concerned about the health of its Army. Allen specifically examines a number of the findings associated with the 2010 Profession of Arms campaign, which touched every cohort within the Army. This campaign, combined with a recent report from the US Army Center for Leadership, concluded “trust is currently a strategic advantage” in America’s Army. The author cautions that it is imperative we establish a reciprocal relationship of trust between the institutional Army and the nation it serves – RHT.

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I certify that the information furnished is true and complete. Robert H. Taylor, Editor.