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From the Editor

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From the Editor in Chief

The Autumn issue of *Parameters* opens with a Special Commentary by Sir Hew Strachan concerning lessons Western militaries learned, or ought to have learned, during their campaigns in Afghanistan. His commentary sets up this issue's first forum, *Afghanistan's Lessons: Part I*.

In the opening article, Seth Johnston's "NATO's Lessons" underscores the importance of the Alliance's role as a facilitator of multinational collaboration. He presents a favorable view, arguing NATO's established processes succeeded in enabling countries with limited resources to participate fully in the mission in Afghanistan. Howard Coombs follows with a contribution concerning "Canada's Lessons." Among other things, he maintains Canada's whole-of-government approach resulted in great gains while Canadian Forces were actively involved in combat. Nonetheless, Canada seems uninterested in maintaining this capability as a framework for responding to other crises.

The third article in this forum is Martijn Kitzen's "The Netherlands' Lessons," which highlights the benefits of having a small military that enjoys networked learning. Although the Dutch military seems to be reverting to enemy-centric thinking, the author encourages its leaders to retain an adaptive mindset that will facilitate adopting a more population-centric approach when necessary. In "France's Lessons," Christophe Lafaye explains how combat in Afghanistan contributed to the tactical and doctrinal evolution of the French Army. With decades of relative peace since the Algerian War, French soldiers began their service in Afghanistan with little experience and inadequate materiel. They quickly developed into a combat-ready force capable of responding rapidly to a variety of military emergencies as the need arose.

Our second forum, *World War II: 75th Anniversary*, features two contributions concerning famous US generals. Conrad Crane's, "Matthew Ridgway and the Battle of the Bulge" illustrates examples of Ridgway's strategic thinking at work during the German's surprise attack and ensuing crisis. Alexander G. Lovelace's "Slap Heard around the World: George Patton and Shell Shock" analyzes Patton's possible motives for slapping two soldiers in during the Sicily campaign in 1943.~AJE

