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From the Commandant

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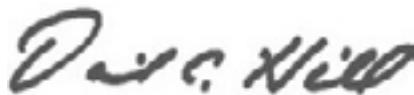
From the Commandant

With the publication of this issue, The US Army War College Quarterly, *Parameters* celebrates 50 years of successfully presenting cutting-edge scholarly research in a format useful to military and policy practitioners. For five decades, *Parameters* has served as the US Army's flagship strategy journal, bringing crucial strategic issues to the attention of not only the Army's senior leaders but the entire Joint community as well. As the archives show, the name *Parameters* was chosen because it represents the responsible framing of defense matters—from the nature of war to the character of civil-military relations—for discussion and debate, and ultimately for action.

Fifty years ago, Major General George S. Eckhardt, then Commandant of the US Army War College, described *Parameters*' chief objective as the promotion of a broader and deeper understanding of the “goals, the power, and the policies of the United States, as well as those of allies, neutrals, or potential enemies.” As I look back at all the journal has accomplished since then, I am pleased to report *Parameters* has more than met that objective. The Army's flagship strategy journal not only promotes a deeper understanding of the “goals, power, and policies” of the United States, it also leans forward—anticipating and, in important ways, shaping those goals through the insights of its contributors as well as the open-mindedness of its readers.

Since its inception, *Parameters* has published more than 1,200 different authors and 1,500 articles. Among its authors are notable personalities such as Omar Bradley, Michael Walzer, Barbara Tuchman, George Will, Milton Friedman, John Keegan, David Petraeus, Isaac Singer, Tom Wolfe, Stephen Ambrose, James H. Baker, Charles S. Robb, Saxby Chambliss, Robert Gates, James Mattis, and Michael Chertoff. Likewise, the articles these authors have written for the journal cover such topics as new vistas for American foreign policy, innovations in professional military education, emerging technologies, strategic theories for the contemporary world, the moral impact of racial and gender inequalities, and measures to reduce the incidence of suicide within our ranks.

Yet, just as our nation is greater than the sum of its parts, and the more diverse those parts the better, so too *Parameters* is more than the sum of its authors and its articles, eminent though they may be. The journal's success stems immensely from you, the reader, and your active participation. To underscore that point, let me echo something Major General Eckhardt noted five decades ago that still rings true today: *Parameters*' success lies less in its contributors or its content than in the benefits its readers derive from it. We provide you a forum for scholarly research, but you ensure the content is relevant, timely, and accessible by engaging with it.



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