From the Editor in Chief

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From the Editor in Chief

Welcome to the Autumn issue of Parameters. This issue consists of two In Focus commentaries, three forums, and the SRAD Director’s Corner.

In our first In Focus essay, “Why America’s Army Can’t Win America’s Wars,” John Nagl presents a detailed historical analysis of the US military wins and losses since World War II. He provides a perspective on where past decisions and doctrines have led to defeat and where they may have succeeded if given more time or executed differently. In doing so, he outlines lessons learned and argues victory in American wars means the long-term commitment of US forces to troubled lands. In our second In Focus essay, “Sino-Russian Relations and the War in Ukraine,” Zenel Garcia and Kevin Modlin contend Sino-Russian relations are a narrow partnership centered on accelerating the emergence of a multipolar order to reduce American hegemony. They show how Beijing and Moscow converge on this point but diverge in how they define key actors and interests in this order. They also trace the foundations of this relationship and highlight how the war in Ukraine has created challenges and opportunities for China’s strategic interests.

The issue’s first forum, War and Its Effects, features two articles. In “Deconstructing the Collapse of Afghanistan National Security and Defense Forces,” Thomas Lynch analyzes the operational liabilities and qualitative limitations of the Afghanistan National Security and Defense Forces, referencing statements by US and Afghan political and military officials, data from official US government reports, and nongovernmental organization field analyses. In “Linking Trauma to the Prevalence of Civil War,” Erik Goepner shows that the more trauma endured by a population, the more civil war the country will experience.

Our second forum, Future Force Development, includes three articles showing how the military can anticipate personnel management challenges successfully. In “Assessing the Army’s Cyber Force Structure,” John Fernandes, Nicolas Starck, Richard Shmel, Charles Suslowicz, Jan Kallberg, and Todd Arnold assess the Army’s cyber forces and highlight areas military leadership must address to allow these forces to continue evolving. In “Meeting the US Military’s Manpower Challenges,” Stefan Borg discusses personnel issues and provides a scholarly overview of a critical yet understudied issue facing the US military. In “Professionalizing Special Operations Forces,” C. Anthony Pfaff argues that Special Operations Forces’ ethical crisis is due to
the lack of a professional identity and ethic and shows how addressing organizational issues can enable the group to establish and apply a code of ethics.

The third forum, *Historical Studies*, marks the 60th anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. In “The Cuban Missile Crisis: Miscalculation, Nuclear Risks, and the Human Dimension,” Arthur Cyr revisits the 35-day confrontation between the United States and Russia to consider how leadership and related human qualities remain crucial to understanding the perspectives, incentives, and limitations of our opponents when facing crisis situations like nuclear war.

In the final section, the third installment of the *SRAD Director’s Corner*, George Shatzer focuses on North Korea and the Kim family regime. He reviews *Becoming Kim Jong Un: A Former CIA Officer’s Insights into North Korea’s Enigmatic Young Dictator* by Jung H. Pak and *Rationality in the North Korean Regime: Understanding the Kims’ Strategy of Provocation* by David W. Shin and shows how these books might help readers better understand North Korea’s leader, Kim Jong-Un, and the implications of his actions for US foreign and military policy in the region. The books also provide insights for strategists attempting to plan for security in East Asia. ~AJE