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From the Editor in Chief

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From the Editor in Chief

Welcome to the Winter 2023–24 demi-issue of *Parameters*. Released approximately one month before the full issue of the journal, the demi-issue addresses developing current events and topics critical to our readership, previews content for the forthcoming full issue, and tackles the big questions being asked today in the fields of military strategy and defense policy. This demi-issue includes two special commentaries focused on the Russia-Ukraine War.

In our first *In Focus* special commentary, “Was the Russian Invasion of Ukraine a Failure of Western Deterrence?,” Bettina Renz, a contributing editor of the *Parameters* editorial board, argues the West never articulated a clear strategy to deter such an invasion. Through an analysis of how deterrence works and what Western military and policy practitioners did and did not do leading up to the invasion, she shows the deterrence efforts were based on problematic assumptions about the Kremlin’s motivations.

The second *In Focus* special commentary, “Ukraine’s Lessons for Future Combat: Unmanned Aerial Systems and Deep Strike,” by Harry Halem, demonstrates how the reconnaissance-strike complexes used by both sides in the Russia-Ukraine War have changed modern combat. Based on his visit to the region in 2023, Halem provides lessons Western military and policy practitioners can learn about the roles these systems play; he also examines Ukraine’s development of a battle-management system that fuses unmanned aerial systems and satellite reconnaissance to coordinate deep strikes into Russia’s rear. ~AJE

