In my view, our Constitution and the Bill of Rights are two of the most important contributions to our collective human experience. The men who debated and wrestled, word by word, over the contents of these two founding documents used great imagination and creativity. Over the following 228 years since the Constitutional Convention that constructed these works, they have been tested and, when found weak, amended, or in the case of the Civil War, fought over or adapted by our Federal system of laws in which our three branches of government all play important roles. While the exact meaning of the Constitution remains in the eye of each citizen to debate and seek change as needed, I doubt even the most cynical citizen would wish the Constitution did not exist.

One of the most important features of our Constitution is the First Amendment, without which this journal might not exist. Even as we now debate the value of mass media on a range of points from how to deal with fake news, the slow decline of local journalism and investigative reporting, and the role of alternative media in our lives, the simple words of this Amendment allow for a wide and even yet-to-be-discovered set of means and ways for us to communicate with and about each other. “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.” As a people, we are frequently challenged by those who disagree with our personal views, right down to how we see this Amendment functioning in our society. Members of the military have some additional restrictions on their ability to participate in these debates for very reasonable and important reasons, but they can and should speak their minds when the circumstances require them to do so.

The American military has long functioned to work to solve some of our national crises, especially when our interests are at risk. And as citizens in uniform, their freedom to speak on issues of the day is not completely taken from them when they take an oath to support and defend the Constitution. In fact, in
times of great stress, the Nation relies on the ability of military leaders of all ranks to use their talents—both physical and mental—to help defend itself. After many years of being in the military, I have come to appreciate what makes the better military leaders stand out from the rest: the ability to think critically, creatively, and often originally under great pressure; the ability to speak with an informed and measured voice; the ability to “take the heat” from all directions for what you believe works or could be done to meet the mission; and the ability to learn from the past to make the future better. Without these unique aspects of the American military “mind,” I believe the American “experiment” would have ended long ago.

This issue of JFQ brings you the best new ideas from and for the Joint Force. My interview with Deputy Secretary of Defense Robert Work leads off this issue’s Forum section. Stanley Springer, John Schommer, and Sean Jones bring us an interesting piece on trust as the real glue that holds joint operations together. Continuing our efforts to bring new thinking on cyber issues, Scott Applegate, Christopher Carpenter, and David West recommend a way to adapt existing concepts from the real world of warfighting to the terrain of cyberspace. Returning to another popular discussion area in these pages, Kevin Ayers provides his take on how to best provide theater ballistic defense in the Asia-Pacific Region.

JFQ next presents the winning essays from the 10th annual Secretary of Defense and 35th annual Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Essay Competitions, held here at National Defense University (NDU). In May, 23 judges from 14 participating joint professional military education (JPME) institutions met to determine the best JPME student entries among the three categories. The Secretary of Defense National Security Essay winner, Major Lee M. Turcotte, USAF, reviews the history of the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II. Winning the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Strategic Research Paper competition, Lieutenant Colonel David A. Mueller, USMC, discusses the military’s responsibilities during operations to achieve post-conflict civil order and governance. Leveraging his personal experiences in Palestine, Lieutenant Colonel Jeffrey Dean McCoy, USA, won the Chairman’s Strategy Article competition by discussing options for the future of the Palestinian Security Force.

In JPME Today, two articles celebrate the 70th anniversary of the National War College (NWC). NWC Commandant Darren Hartord and Dean of Faculty David Tretler give us an insider’s view of an enduring institution here at NDU, with a very modern focus on educating the next generation of our most senior joint force, interagency, and international military leaders. Janet Breslin-Smith takes us back through National War College’s rich 70-year past. On PME itself, Joan Johnson-Freese and Kevin Kelley continue the discussion on how to gauge the value of today’s professional military education.

In Commentary, suggesting it is time for a reversal of the current relationship between Army and Air Force forces in combat, Price T. Bingham offers an important discussion on the future of integrated AirLand operations. Extending the discussion of center of gravity as an operational concept, Aaron P. Jackson takes us inside the thinking of our Australian partners as he details their Defence Force’s new approach. As the battle against ISIL continues, Michael Keilly has developed a different way to consider the value of center of gravity approaches to defeat these hybrid threats. And revising an old form of commentary JFQ used in the past, Joseph Collins provides us with an extended review of three important current books on general officer leadership.

In Features, Dave Nystrom and Joseph Wojtecki, Jr., with Mat Winter, discuss the importance of how to communicate to gain trust in any effort to accelerate innovation. Regarding global health engagement, Tracey Koehlmooos, Linda Kimsey, David Bishai, and David Lane stress the importance of a systems approach to achieving healthcare success overseas. Wilson VornDick suggests ways to improve how the military judges its Servicemembers’ performance and potential.

Originally an extended book review, I asked my NDU teammate Christopher Lamb to develop this edition’s Recall article, which focuses on one of the lesser known but key leaders of our successes in World War II and the man for whom the fort where JFQ is produced was named, Lieutenant General Lesley J. McNair. In Joint Doctrine, the Joint Staff’s Director of Joint Force Development (DJ7), Kevin Scott, discusses a relatively new and important process for developing civilians in joint military organizations through mentoring. In addition, Michael Hutchenes, William Dries, Jason Perdue, Vincent Bryant, and Kerry Moores introduce a new Joint Operational Concept, the Joint Concept for Access and Maneuver in the Global Commons. We also have three excellent book reviews and, as always, our Joint Doctrine Update for your consideration.

One of the enduring aspects of the thinking of James Madison, widely acknowledged as the father of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, was his view of the power of public opinion. Madison saw public opinion as best expressed by a knowledgeable and strong public through its elected representatives as the basis for effective government. In today’s Internet-empowered opinion world with an often anonymous “public,” which can include someone who is not a U.S. citizen or even a person, it is increasingly hard to know what the public thinks. In the military, there are few avenues for expression of thought that can reach its decisionmakers. JFQ will continue to offer a way for strong and knowledgeable people to express their very best ideas. I am looking forward to hearing from you. JFQ

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