

# NDU Press Congratulates the Winners of the 2020 Essay Competitions

NDU Press virtually hosted the final round of judging in May 2020, during which 26 faculty judges from 14 participating professional military education (PME) institutions selected the best entries in each category. There were 72 submissions in this year's three categories. First Place winners in each of the three categories appear in the following pages.

## Secretary of Defense National Security Essay Competition



The 14<sup>th</sup> annual competition was intended to stimulate new approaches to coordinated civilian and military action from a broad spectrum of civilian and military students. Essays address U.S. Government structure, policies, capabilities, resources, and/or practices and to provide creative, feasible ideas on how best to orchestrate the core competencies of our national security institution.

### First Place (tie)

**Lieutenant Colonel Roderick K. Butz, USAF**

*U.S. Army War College*

“Beneath the Crosshairs: Remotely Piloted Airstrikes as a Foreign Policy Tool”

### First Place (tie)

**Kaleb J. Redden, Office of the Secretary of Defense**

*National War College*

“Competition Is What States Make of It: A U.S. Strategy Toward China”

### Second Place

**Kyle Richardson, Department of State National War College**

“Indonesia: Lessons for the U.S.-China Geo-Economic Competition”

### Third Place

**Lieutenant Colonel Eric V.M. Kreitz, USA**

*U.S. Army War College*

“Re-Emerging Russian Influence in Latin America and U.S. Foreign Policy Response”

## Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Strategic Essay Competition



This annual competition, in its 39<sup>th</sup> year in 2020, challenges students at the Nation's joint PME institutions to write research papers or articles about significant aspects of national security strategy to stimulate strategic thinking, promote well-written research, and contribute to a broader security debate among professionals.

## Strategic Research Paper

### First Place

**Lieutenant Colonel Jeremy McKissack, USAFR**

*Air War College*

“Pardon the Paradox: Making Sense of President Trump's Interventions in Military Justice”

### Second Place

**Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Kendrick Mulvey, USMC**

*U.S. Naval War College (Senior)*

“Helping Hanoi Keep the Dragon at Bay in the South China Sea”

### Third Place

**Amy C.F. Carlon, Department of State Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy**

*and Resource Strategy*

“Diplomatic Engagement on Missile Defense Amidst Great Power Competition”

## Strategy Article

### First Place

**Colonel Mark M. Zais, USA**

*U.S. Army War College*

“Artificial Intelligence: A Decisionmaking Technology”

### Second Place

**Lieutenant Colonel Kukunaokala (Kuna) Mendonca, ARNG**

*U.S. Army War College*

“Cybersecurity Initiatives in the National Guard: Opportunities and Challenges”

### Third Place

**Lieutenant Colonel Jeremy McKissack, USAFR**

*Air War College*

“First Among Equals: Diplomacy as America’s Primary Instrument of Power”

### Joint Force Quarterly Maerz Awards

In its 5<sup>th</sup> year, the *JFQ* Maerz Awards, chosen by the staff of NDU Press, recognize the most influential articles from the previous year’s four issues. Six outstanding articles were chosen for the Maerz Awards, named in honor of Mr. George C. Maerz, former writer-editor of NDU Press.

### Forum

**Glenda Jakubowski**

“What’s Not to Like? Social Media as Information Operations Force Multiplier,” *JFQ* 94 (3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2019)

### JPME Today

**Dale C. Eikmeier**

“Simplicity: A Tool for Working with Complexity and Chaos,” *JFQ* 92 (1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2019)

### Commentary

**Jeffery Zust and Stephen Krauss**

“Force Protection from Moral Injury: Three Objectives for Military Leaders,” *JFQ* 92 (1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2019)

### Features

**Sara Dudley, Travis Pond, Ryan Roseberry, and Shawn Carden**

“Evasive Maneuvers: How Malign Actors Leverage Cryptocurrency,” *JFQ* 92 (1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2019)

### Recall

**John K. DiEugenio and Aubry J. Eaton**

“Flanking the Crater,” *JFQ* 94 (3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2019)

### Joint Doctrine

**J. Mark Berwanger**

“Fire for Effect: The Evolution of Joint Fires,” *JFQ* 93 (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2019)

### Distinguished Judges

Twenty-six senior faculty members from the 14 participating PME institutions took time out of their busy schedules (and online teaching duties) to serve as judges for this year’s competitions. Their personal dedication and professional excellence ensured strong and credible competitions.

The judges were Joseph L. Billingsley, College of Information and Cyberspace; Brandy Lyn Brown, Marine Corps University; Mark A. Bucknam, National War College; Dr. Charles Chadbourne, U.S. Naval War College; Dr. James Chen, College of Information and Cyberspace; Dr. Benjamin “Frank” Cooling, Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy; Dr. Armando DeLeon, Air University eSchool of Graduate PME; Dr. Richard L. DiNardo, Marine Corps Staff College; Dr. Peter Eltsov, College of International Security Affairs; Dr. Jack Godwin, NDU Press; Dr. Todd Holm, Marine Corps University; Dr. C.J. Horn, Air Force Cyber College; Dr. James D. Kiras, School of Advanced Air and Space Studies; Captain Bill Marlowe, USN (Ret.), Joint Forces Staff College; Dr. Brian McNeil, Air War College; Dr. Larry D. Miller, U.S. Army War College; Dr. Kristin Mulready-Stone, U.S. Naval War College; Dr. Jaimie Orr, National War College; Dr. Nicholas M. Sambaluk, Air University eSchool of Graduate PME; Dr. Jesse P. Samluk, National Intelligence University; Dr. Nicholas E. Sarantakes, U.S. Naval War College; Dr. Naunihal Singh, U.S. Naval War College; Dr. Paul Springer, Air Command and Staff College; Dr. Jeff Turner, Joint Forces Staff College; Dr. David A. Wigmore, College of International Security Affairs; and Dr. Elizabeth D. Woodward, Air War College.

## New from NDU Press

for the Center for the Study of Chinese Military Affairs

Strategic Forum 306

*Beyond Borders: PLA Command and Control of Overseas Operations*

By Phillip C. Saunders



Expanded Chinese interests are driving People’s Liberation Army efforts to develop power projection

capabilities. The reorganization of the Chinese military in late 2015 explicitly sought to give the Central Military Commission and the theater commands responsibility for conducting operations and to relegate the services to force-building. However, the services are trying to maintain operational responsibilities, including for overseas operations. The precise division of responsibilities and coordination mechanisms between the CMC and the theater commands remains unclear, especially for large, high-intensity combat operations. Existing command and control mechanisms are workable for now, but are likely to prove inadequate if PLA overseas operations become larger, require joint forces, last for extended periods of time, or occur in nonpermissive environments where deployed forces face significant threats from hostile state or nonstate actors.



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