

INTRODUCTION

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Like the Air Force, the Air Force flagship professional journal turns 75 this year. Founded in 1947 by the first Air University Commander Major General Muir S. Fairchild, *Air University Quarterly Review* stands as one of the original components of Air University, just one year younger than institution and its founding professional military education colleges, Air War College and Air Command and Staff School (renamed Air Command and Staff College in 1954).

In the subsequent decades, the journal, funded directly by the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, underwent several name changes and oversight organizations at Air University. The journal also developed versions in multiple foreign languages, the longest lasting being the *Journal of the Americas*, the premier trilingual air and spacepower publication in Spanish, Portuguese, and English, started in 1949. Today, Air University Press also includes in its family of scholarly, peer-reviewed journal publications the *Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs*, a leading forum for international dialogue pertaining to the Indo-Pacific region.

In 2006, one of my predecessors, then-Lieutenant General Stephen Lorenz, took the step of establishing *Strategic Studies Quarterly*, as the content of the flagship publication—*Air & Space Power Journal*—had developed a predominant focus on operations and had moved away from articles strategic in nature. Fifteen years later, in the face of social media and expanded general interest in global affairs by readers regardless of rank, a true flagship Air Force journal effort of the twenty-first century must encompass the overlapping, interdependent realms of operations, national security strategy, and international security.

Consequently, on the occasion of the diamond anniversary, *Strategic Studies Quarterly* and *Air & Space Power Journal* are being rebranded as two parts of one unified Department of the Air Force flagship journal effort. *Æther: A Journal of Strategic Airpower & Spacepower* has replaced *Strategic Studies Quarterly* in name but continues the principled focus on airpower and spacepower issues that drive thought and discourse on key national and international security concerns. *Air & Space Operations Review*, which has replaced *Air & Space Power Journal*, will likewise sustain an emphasis on relevant airpower and spacepower operational innovation, adaptation, and criticism. Both journals will continue to meet and exceed the expectations of readers

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worldwide, from Airman and Guardian operators to leading national and international security thinkers on airpower and spacepower.

Throughout its history and regardless of title, the flagship professional journal has never failed to stay true to its founding ethos, that is, engaging sensitive, timely topics with scholarly rigor and refreshing candor—and critique, when warranted. The first editor and editorial board of *Air University Quarterly Review* noted in the inaugural issue in the spring of 1947 that “if the appearance here of articles which may not agree with accepted policy, or even with majority opinion, will stimulate discussion and provoke controversy, an important part of this journal’s mission will have been accomplished: to induce airmen to have original thought on these matters and to give these thoughts expression.”¹

The Chief of Staff of the Air Force General CQ Brown Jr. has called on Air University to be the leader in innovative thought and theory for the Department. As a partner with and component of Air University and Air University Press, the professional journals of the Department of the Air Force will continue the revered reputation of the journals heretofore, seeking rigorous, scholarly, and intellectually creative content.

This inaugural issue of *Æther: A Journal of Strategic Airpower & Spacepower* appropriately launches the flagship journal effort into its next 75 years.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in the Air Force family of professional journals. We look forward to your feedback and continued improvement.

Lt Gen James B. Hecker, USAF



Commander, President, Air University

1. Editor and Editorial Board, “Editorial,” *Air University Quarterly Review* 1, no.1 (Spring 1947): 94.

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