

# FROM THE EDITOR

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Dear Reader,

I am honored to join the distinguished Air University Press team as the new editor in chief of *Æther: A Journal of Strategic Airpower & Spacepower*, the flagship strategic journal of the Department of the Air Force. As a retired Air Force officer and now civil servant, I have spent most of the last 30 years proudly serving in the world's greatest air and space force. This is my second opportunity to fill the role of editor in chief, the first being my stint at the *Air & Space Power Journal* from 2011 to 2015. Much has transpired since those days, and I am excited to climb back into Theodore Roosevelt's proverbial arena to help inform, educate, and encourage robust debate among national security professionals.

We start this new year at a momentous time of change. Strategic uncertainty continues to be a major theme within the national security field. The Trump administration is taking shape and clearly signaling a new strategic direction on all fronts. Russia's war in Ukraine, great power competition conflict in the Middle East, homeland defense, energy policy, Western liberal ideals, and disruptive technologies are priorities high on President Donald Trump's list starting on day one of his administration. I am excited to see how the academic discussion unfolds in the next few years. It promises to be a journey of discovery and insight.

Time will reveal much in the coming days and years. Meanwhile we continue our scholarly pursuits in this Winter issue. Brad Townsend begins the **Space Policy** forum, mining new lessons from the Cold War-era administrations of Presidents Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan to provide a feasible path forward for the elusive anti-satellite testing ban. He proposes a limited ban that could benefit all spacefaring nations. Next, Christopher Keranen explores potential benefits for space security through cooperation efforts at Kazakhstan's Baikonur Cosmodrome. While competition with Russia and China complicate this proposal, the potential benefits may just outweigh the risks.

In **Cyber Policy**, Marco Catanese proposes an alternative path to an independent cyber force. He contends that such a cyber force is necessary to successfully defend and exploit the cyber domain. He believes the best path forward is to place it within the Department of the Air Force, as has been done with the Space Force.

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Next, in **Principles of War**, Alessandro Podestà analyzes the concepts of mass, surprise, and technological innovation in airpower theory, using the First Gulf War as a case study. He argues that Western air forces need a paradigm shift that will transform the future of aerial warfare.

Finally, in a follow-up to *Æther's* Fall air littoral issue, Kevin Jackson and Matthew Arrol address domain challenges of this transitional space from a Joint perspective that builds on a littoral mindset at all levels to maximize future success. They advocate the necessity for a break from service parochialism and identify several takeaways from Russia's war in Ukraine.

Again, I am thrilled to be back and look forward to the days ahead as we tackle the issues vital to our national defense as they relate to air and spacepower.

~The Editor

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