

We focused in our last two editions on the herculean efforts that our sister air forces in the Americas have been engaged in since the COVID-19 pandemic ensued, providing much needed resources within their own countries and the region in general. Now, with the development and deployment of effective vaccines, we are refocusing on our core mission areas.

In this edition we introduce two articles regarding military strategy. The first is a compelling article, “F-35 O-Ring Production Functions versus Mosaic Warfare: Some Simple Mathematics,” from Dr. Jörg Schimmelpfennig, presenting a mathematical argument on how mosaic warfare, the brainchild of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and subject of a research study authored by Gen David Deptula and Heather Penney, can be implemented to substantially improve the chances of mission success in scenarios where traditional approaches are bound to fail.

The second article, “Military Strategy Innovation - Innovating with the support of the Modern Strategic Tool: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) +1,” from author Carlos A. Segura Villarreal, presents how the successful implementation of the SWOT +1 tool can facilitate military strategy innovation.

Our next two articles focus on transnational crime. Dr. R. Evan Ellis, in his article “The Reinforcing Activities of the ELN (National Liberation Army) in Colombia and Venezuela,” details how a confluence of events in Colombia and Venezuela over the last five years have empowered the ELN to become a far more dangerous and intractable threat to both countries, and how, if not confronted, will have worsening adverse consequences for Colombia, Venezuela, and the region.

Furthermore, Col. Joed I. Carbonell-López, USAF, in his article “A Strategy for Defeating the Criminal Insurgency in Central America’s Northern Triangle,” explains how the lack of security caused by Transnational Criminal Organizations is the most significant disease plaguing El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, a region commonly referred to as the Northern Triangle. He then proposes a strategy for the establishment of effective, transparent governance; professionalization of regional law enforcement; subjugation of criminal insurgency operations; increase in economic opportunities; and methods to counteract the demand for narcotics.

We continue with an article from Col. Andrés Leal, Uruguayan Air Force, “For Peace,” on the risks and lessons learned by the Uruguayan Air Force during operations at the service of the United Nations in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

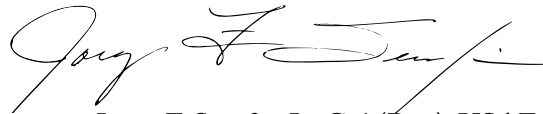
Finally, in her article, “Captain Harold B. Grow, USN - Bold Pioneer of Peruvian Aviation,” author Perla Baca Gálvez details how Captain Harold B. Grow,

USN, serving as part of a diplomatic exchange between the US and Peru, unified military, naval, commercial, and civilian aviation during the development of the Peruvian Aeronautical Corp (now the Peruvian Air Force) in the 1920s.

As always, we welcome your feedback and article submissions. We are specifically seeking articles in the following areas:

- Directed Energy
- 5G
- Quantum computing

Please feel free to contact me directly at my email address: [jorge.serafin.1@au.af.edu](mailto:jorge.serafin.1@au.af.edu).

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jorge F. Serafin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jorge" being the most prominent.

Jorge F. Serafin, Lt Col (Ret.), USAF  
*Editor, USAF Journal of the Americas*