

---

# From the Editor



**C**hairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Richard Myers, bids farewell to *Joint Force Quarterly* readers in his column, “A Word from the Chairman.” General Myers’ tour as the 15<sup>th</sup> Chairman began with 9/11. He announced his priorities clearly on the first page of *JFQ* issue 29, January 2002: “winning the global war on terrorism, enhancing joint warfighting capabilities, and transforming the Armed Forces.”

In the past 4 years, General Myers has continued to focus intellectual debate on these priorities while challenging the defense community with new perspectives, such as the recognition of joint operations as the baseline, the importance of battlespace management and information sharing, and the need for integrated operations, where the Armed Forces work closely with a broad range of new interagency, international, and private sector partners. In addition, he directed *JFQ* to open its aperture and consider a broader range of security issues that cut across traditional stovepipes and involve more than just the military instrument of national power.

General Myers has helped to guide the Nation through one of the most treacherous periods in its history. His successor will face a familiar and challenging strategic environment, but one with promising democratic governments in Afghanistan and Iraq, significant integration among the Armed Forces and our allies, and many transformation programs well under way. But dangers remain, particularly the continuing military and economic threats posed by rogue states and the potential of terrorists using weapons of mass destruction.

As *JFQ* continues to address important security issues, the staff is pleased to provide some exciting new features. This issue marks the first *JFQ* special feature highlighting the winning entries from the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Strategic Essay Competition.

Also in this issue, the reader will find a new series: *Interagency Dialogue*. Recognizing that integrated operations require better blending of

America’s instruments of national power, *JFQ* presents this series to promote discussion among security professionals.

The *JFQ* Forum theme in this issue is “Logistics and Support.” Over 2 millennia ago, Xenophon recorded a timeless comment by the Spartan leader Clearchus: “Without supplies neither a general nor a soldier is good for anything.” Senior military and civilian leaders alike recognize this fundamental truth.

Recently, I spoke with an Army Sergeant First Class returning from his second forward tour in Iraq. He emphasized a few issues, crucial from his perspective on the ground, which the Joint Staff fielded months earlier. Uparmored Humvees and new boots were at the top his list, as were 50-caliber rounds. His team considered fully uparmored Humvees critical; most of his comrades thought partial retrofits were worse than no armor at all. And he related that troops still needed new boots at their forward operating base by mid-tour; most of his Soldiers relied on spouses to mail replacement boots.

Macro-level logistic decisions can directly influence the combat capability and survival of individual Soldiers. Strategic decisions on basic transportation, body armor, and clothing impact those executing at the tactical level in the field, and complicated systems require more and more acquisition lead time. However, for the Sergeant, killing brutal terrorists went hand in hand with helping Iraqi villagers obtain clean water. The quality of the entire mass of logistic decisions at all levels, to this Soldier, might be characterized by the availability of good boots and enough 50-caliber rounds for his company.

With the distances, costs, and number of partners involved in post-Cold War defense, the logistic challenge of equipping and supplying troops on multiple fronts across the globe has become even more Byzantine. But history is consistent—the Soldier on the line still depends on layers of support to complete the mission, whether it is to attack, defend, or provide humanitarian aid.

We welcome feedback and are pleased to consider for publication well-written research articles and essays on national security topics. Send an email to [JFQ1@ndu.edu](mailto:JFQ1@ndu.edu) or see our Web site to find a simple feedback form and submission guidelines at [ndupress.ndu.edu](http://ndupress.ndu.edu).

Merrick E. Krause, Colonel, USAF  
Director, National Defense University Press  
Editor, *Joint Force Quarterly*