



From the Editor

Although *Joint Force Quarterly* attempts to advance the debate on timely and important security issues, we realize that strategic lessons are rarely new. Whether the subject is the war on terror, transformation, or orchestrating multiple instruments of national power in a world rife

with uncertainty and competing interests, themes typically remain the same. They all have deep historic roots, unseen and apparent.

For example, America's militias and Citizen Soldiers stand as icons of American individualism and patriotism. Yet their use and preservation are a conundrum for contemporary decisionmakers.

Voluntary military service has been an unbroken tradition for centuries (though compulsories occasionally assisted the volunteers). The U.S. Reserve Component—the National Guard and Service Reserves—traces its lineage to the Massachusetts Militia of 1636. The New England Militia fought in the early battles of the American Revolution at Lexington and Concord, 2 months before Congress established the Continental Army in June 1775. The Constitution and Bill of Rights subsequently empowered militias with clauses that most Americans are familiar with, such as providing “for the common defense.” In 1792, the Militia Act determined that men aged 18 to 45 years would serve in the compulsory militia, but during the 19th century, volunteer militias composed the bulk of the military.

In the 21st century, the United States again has an all-volunteer force. Individuals make the decision to serve through a personal cost-benefit analysis: some alone, some with spousal input, and some with parental approval. Active duty Servicemembers choose professional military service as a career or sign a contract for a term of service. The military then becomes their primary job for the tour of duty, which may last 3 years or more than 30. Reserve Component members, however, use a different calculus.

Reserve Component volunteers, like their Active duty counterparts, must also consider the effect of extended deployment not only on their families but also on their businesses or civilian careers. Indeed, private sector companies bear war burdens beyond taxes. Some personal businesses cannot survive extended deployments, particularly with late notification.

In a more positive sense, some companies have elected to support their employees in uniform by paying the difference between a lower military stipend and regular civilian pay, and some extend medical and other benefits to the families of those activated to serve full time in a state of emergency.

Government leaders must gauge limited funds to achieve crucial political aims, a difficult problem due to the increasingly sophisticated (and pricey) tools employed by the military instrument. The tradition of grabbing a flintlock from above the fireplace bears no resemblance to modern reality. Today's Minutemen must be proficient with night vision goggles, body armor, advanced personal weapons, conveyances, and communications systems; or they must be proficient at their station in space control, flying fighter aircraft, using precision weaponry, or commanding tanker jets.

Technically advanced aids to warfighting were designed for professional military volunteers, with many recently redesigned to defeat amorphous and multinational post-Cold War threats. These advancements create problems in training, proficiency, and system complexity for the Reservist. How to balance the Reserve Component's role and how to increase predictability in order to retain skilled manpower are perplexing questions for leaders.

Because of *Joint Force Quarterly's* mandate from the Chairman to present relevant and diverse debate on strategic security issues, this issue's Forum deals with America's Total Force, the combination of the Active duty military and its Reserve Component, including the National Guard of each state and Service Reserve elements.

Joint Force Quarterly is also proud to present a Special Feature showcasing the winning research from the 25th Annual Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Strategic Essay Contest. This is the second year that National Defense University Press, with generous support by the NDU Foundation, has published the winners in the journal. This year, to broaden the field, we expanded the competition to all intermediate, advanced, and senior Service and joint professional military education schools, including international fellows and interagency students. Judges representing all schools met at National Defense University to select the best from an outstanding group of finalists competing in three exciting categories of essays.

This issue of *JFQ* also contains an expanded Interagency Dialogue section with an exceptional article by Supervisory Special Agent Paul J. Shannon, Federal Bureau of Investigation, who is the Director for Law Enforcement Policy on the Homeland Security Council at the White House. This cross-agency program is a useful example of interagency cooperation to share information where no pipeline for such sharing previously existed.

We hope you find the information in *JFQ* useful and timely, interesting and provocative. All articles are peer reviewed, though not refereed, to keep the content on the cutting edge, while presenting a broad range of research and educated opinion pieces; we do not homogenize or censor legitimate analysis and discourse, believing the risk of sharing information openly, in conduct of our mission, is less than the risk of impeding it.

JFQ emphasizes scholarly research, carefully considered commentary, and interagency synergy, international senior leader crosstalk, and interviews. See our Web site for more research and added features. Please drop us an email; we appreciate candid input and requests for specific subject matter and analysis. We would like to receive engaging articles on military and diplomatic history, national security and strategic studies, and innovative joint military operations research.

Although there may be little “new” in conflict and warfare, security dilemmas, or human nature, there are always new ways to examine and consider contemporary issues. **JFQ**

Colonel Merrick E. Krause, USAF
Director, National Defense University Press
Editor, *Joint Force Quarterly*
JFQ1@ndu.edu