

From the Editor

This issue of the *US Army War College Quarterly* opens with a special commentary by Don M. Snider, “Renewing the Motivational Power of the Army’s Professional Ethic.” Snider argues the US Army needs to preserve those traits that make it a profession, a task never easy in times of transition and resource reallocation. In the *Quarterly*’s “Of Note” section, Brigadier General Kimberly Field’s short essay, “Whose Breach, Whose Trust?” challenges the Army to consider the questions Andrew Bacevich raised in his *Breach of Trust* regarding the professionalism and effectiveness of the All Volunteer Force.

Our first forum, *Confronting the “Islamic State,”* offers four articles examining the latest incarnation of Al Qaeda in Iraq (among others), and how to deal with it. Andrew Terrill’s article, “Understanding the Strengths and Vulnerabilities of ISIS,” begins the discussion with a strategic assessment of the group calling itself the “Islamic State.” David S. Sorenson’s “Priming Strategic Communications: Countering the Appeal of ISIS” suggests critical points for an effective strategic communications campaign. Ross Harrison describes three prerequisites for a broader, integrative strategy in “Towards a Regional Strategy Contra ISIS.” Dana El Kurd’s “The Jordanian Military: A Key Regional Partner” provides important insights into the structure and culture of Jordan’s armed forces, an essential partner in the fight against ISIS.

The second forum, *NATO’s Rebirth,* features two contributions concerning the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. John R. Deni’s “NATO’s New Trajectories after the Wales Summit” explores what was agreed to at the summit and its implications for the future of the Alliance and the role of the United States. In “Assessing NATO’s Eastern European Flank” Luis Simón considers those and other agreements by Alliance leaders in light of recent Russian moves in Eastern Europe.

Our third forum, *Challenges in Russia & Afghanistan,* offers two timely articles. In the first, “Crimea and Russia’s Strategic Overhaul” Kristin Ven Bruusgaard evaluates what is new in Russian military doctrine and strategy, and explores the implications for Western defense planners. The second article, “Reforming the Afghan Security Forces” by Daniel Glickstein and Michael Spangler, considers an alternative course of action with the potential to help Afghanistan address its current security dilemmas.

The final forum, *Cyber Strategies,* consists of an article and a review essay, both of which seek to advance our understanding of this rapidly growing field. Emilio Iasiello’s “Hacking Back: Not the Right Solution” suggests a new way to approach cyber defense, one that adapts traditional ruses and stratagems to the cyber domain. José de Arimatéia da Cruz’s “The Age of Digital Conflict” evaluates recent contributions to the ever burgeoning literature on cyber warfare. ~AJE

