

## **ENCLOSURE 1 (Criteria for Judging)**

Evaluation is unavoidably a subjective process; however, our panelists will use the questions below to help them evaluate essays more objectively.

- Does the essay show evidence of significant research using accepted academic standards? Is the research mainly from primary sources?
- Is the author's research backed up by careful endnotes?
- Does the essay contribute anything new to the body of professional knowledge on the selected topic?
- Does the essay offer well-thought-out and well-researched opinions about the how the Army can find innovative solutions to face future challenges and threats during this time of work force reductions and budget cuts?
- Does the essay offer plausible solutions to or recommendations about the problem or issue?
- Does the essay fairly represent the background facts and provide a credible examination of the issue?
- Is the essay organized? Does it move logically from a clear thesis through a well- developed argument using supporting evidence to yield persuasive conclusions?
- Is the essay written in an accessible style, or does it give the impression that it has been written to impress rather inform and persuade?
- Does the essay avoid excessive acronyms or jargon?