

Military Review

THE PROFESSIONAL JOURNAL OF THE U.S. ARMY

July-August 2022, Vol. 102, No. 4

Professional Bulletin 100-22-07/08

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Military Review (US ISSN 0026-4148) (USPS 123-830) is published bimonthly by the Department of the Army, Army University Press, Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027-1293. Periodical postage paid at Leavenworth, KS, and additional mailing offices.

Yearly paid subscriptions are for \$42 US/APO/FPO and \$58.80 for foreign addresses and are available through the U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO) at <https://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/military-review-professional-journal-united-states-army>.

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The Secretary of the Army has determined that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business as required by law of the department. Funds for printing this publication were approved by the Secretary of the Army in accordance with the provisions of Army Regulation 25-30.

By Order of the Secretary of the Army: Official:

JAMES C. MCCONVILLE

General, United States Army

Chief of Staff



MARK F. AVERILL

Administrative Assistant

to the Secretary of the Army

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Cover photo: Ukrainian soldiers fight with Russian troops from a trench on the front line in the Lugansk region of Ukraine, 11 April 2022. (Photo by Anatolii Stepanov, Agence France-Presse)

Next page: A soldier assigned to the 10th Mountain Division surveys the terrain from the back of a CH-47 Chinook during a 3 March 2020 flight over Kabul, Afghanistan. (Photo by Spc. Jeffery J. Harris, U.S. Army Reserve)



2022 General William E. DePuy

Special Topics Writing Competition

This year's theme is "Insights from Two Decades in Afghanistan"

The intent of this year's DePuy competition is to highlight from a "boots on the ground" perspective what specifically the U.S. Army should learn from its twenty-year experience in Afghanistan. Possible topics might include the following: What faulty assumptions did leaders at all levels make that should be avoided in the future? What lessons should future

senior military leaders learn from Afghanistan? How did the perception of success affect operational planning and assessments of progress? To what degree was Afghanistan a failure of mission-command or counterinsurgency doctrine? Any other salient topics that might be gleaned from an individual's experience and point of view.

Cautionary note: Over the course of the next several years, the topic of U.S. military involvement in Afghanistan will likely be intensely examined, debated, and heatedly argued; primarily at the strategic level and among a host of entities both in and out of the military. In contrast, while *Military Review* (MR) will consider all submissions received, the DePuy contest has historically been a venue that places a premium on careful, impartial, and scholarly work in the practical pursuit of applicable lessons learned. MR has selected the 2022 topic specifically to take advantage of the wealth of relatively recent experience still resident in the active-duty or just-retired force for the purposes of practical learning. Consequently, the judges will be advised that preference will be given to articles where authors primarily discuss issues that outline lessons learned salient to the operational and tactical levels of conflict. Authors are advised to avoid attempting to use the contest as a forum for partisan/political-oriented assignment of credit and liability for the outcome of the Afghanistan Campaign.

Contest opens 1 January 2022 and closes 18 July 2022

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| 1st Place | \$1,000 and publication in <i>Military Review</i> |
| 2nd Place | \$750 and consideration for publication in <i>Military Review</i> |
| 3rd Place | \$500 and consideration for publication in <i>Military Review</i> |

For information on how to submit an entry, please visit <https://www.armyupress.army.mil/DePuy-Writing-Competition/>.

Articles will be comparatively judged by a panel of senior Army leaders on how well authors have clearly identified issues requiring solutions relevant to the Army in general and/or to a significant portion of the Army; how effectively detailed and feasible solutions to the problems identified are presented; and the level of expository skill the author demonstrates in developing a well-organized article using professional standards of grammar, usage, critical thinking, original insights, and evidence of thorough research in the sources provided.