

# The 2022 General William E. DePuy Special Topics Writing Competition

## The writing theme for 2022 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 submit for consideration all submissions received, the DePuy contest has historically been a venue that places a premium on careful, disinterested, 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 fate of the Afghanistan Campaign.

[Download the PDF](#) 

### How do I enter?

- Submit an unclassified, original research paper examining any aspect—broad or specific—of this theme. Papers should be approx. 3,000 words in length, not counting endnotes.
- Previously published papers, or papers pending consideration elsewhere for publication, are ineligible.
- Papers submitted to other competitions still pending announced decisions are also ineligible. (As an exception to this rule, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College students submitting papers to the General Douglas MacArthur Military Leadership Writing Competition may submit the same paper to the DePuy Competition. Thus, it is possible to recognize a single paper for both competitions).
- Contestants are expected to conduct in-depth research to support their papers to include consulting current doctrine, proponent organizations, and subject matter experts. However, unpublished original research based on primary as opposed to secondary source material is preferred.

### What do winning writers receive?

First Place	Second Place	Third Place
Award of \$1,000	Award of \$750	Award of \$500
Certificate of recognition	Certificate of recognition	Certificate of recognition
Publication as a featured essay in <i>Military Review</i> , the professional journal of the United States Army.	Special consideration for publication in <i>Military Review</i> .	Special consideration for publication in <i>Military Review</i> .

**Not all prizes will necessarily be awarded; only superior quality products will warrant award.**

### How do I submit a paper?

- Complete an enrollment form ([see enclosure 2](#)) and submit it together with the proposed manuscript via email or in hard copy with a CD to *Military Review* by Monday, 18 July 2022.  
**Email:** [usarmy.leavenworth.tradoc.mbx.armyu-aup-military-review-public@army.mil](mailto:usarmy.leavenworth.tradoc.mbx.armyu-aup-military-review-public@army.mil)  
**Mail:** Military Review, 290 Stimson, Unit 2, Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027
- The essay will use endnote citations and not bibliographic references. Essays will not use the automatic endnote citation feature of software. Instead, endnotes will be hand typed in numerical order as referenced in the essay and listed at the end of the submitted document.
- All entries should be submitted using the sample format found at the following link: [/Portals/7/DePuy/docs/DePuy Example.docx](#).

### How will the papers be evaluated and judged?

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. [See enclosure 1](#) for the general criteria used in evaluating papers.

### If you have questions contact:

Managing editor of *Military Review*, at (913) 684-9339 or DSN 552-9339; or via email [usarmy.leavenworth.tradoc.mbx.armyu-aup-military-review-public@army.mil](mailto:usarmy.leavenworth.tradoc.mbx.armyu-aup-military-review-public@army.mil).

## **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?

**ENCLOSURE 2 (Entry Form)**

MEMORANDUM FOR Managing Editor, *Military Review*

SUBJECT: The Combined Arms Center General William E. DePuy Writing Competition

1. Attached is my research paper submission for the CAC Commanding General's Combined Arms Center General William E. DePuy Writing Competition.

2. The title of my paper is:

\_\_\_\_\_.

3. I affirm that the research paper is my original work. I further affirm that no part of it has been plagiarized from other sources; that all references to other work have been properly and fully attributed; that it has not been previously published; that it is not now being considered elsewhere for publication; and that it is not currently pending consideration as an entry in any other competition (with the authorized exception of the Command and General Staff College's General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Competition, as provided for under competition rules.)

4. I understand that if my paper is selected as a winner, the Combined Arms Center may reproduce it for instructional purposes, and *Military Review* will have first right of publication without copyright restrictions. Should I receive a cash award, I will submit information to be paid by electronic funds transfer.

*Print your name and contact information legibly.*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

**Postal Address**

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_