

# Themes and Suggested Topics for Future Editions

## Dealing with a Shrinking Army

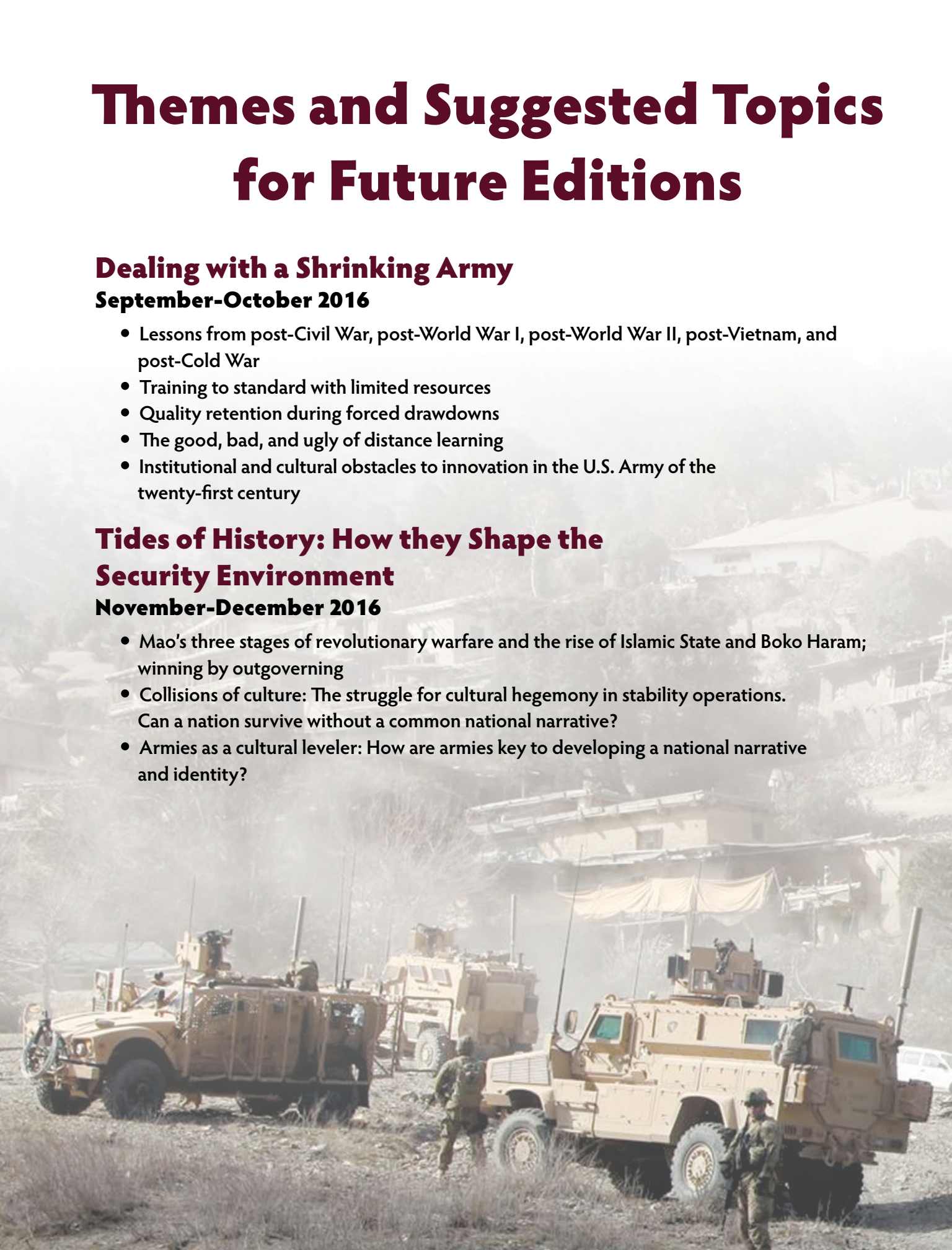
September-October 2016

- Lessons from post-Civil War, post-World War I, post-World War II, post-Vietnam, and post-Cold War
- Training to standard with limited resources
- Quality retention during forced drawdowns
- The good, bad, and ugly of distance learning
- Institutional and cultural obstacles to innovation in the U.S. Army of the twenty-first century

## Tides of History: How they Shape the Security Environment

November-December 2016

- Mao's three stages of revolutionary warfare and the rise of Islamic State and Boko Haram; winning by outgoverning
- Collisions of culture: The struggle for cultural hegemony in stability operations. Can a nation survive without a common national narrative?
- Armies as a cultural leveler: How are armies key to developing a national narrative and identity?





- **Open borders:** Is North America evolving toward European Union-style governance? What are the implications for the U.S. military if North America becomes a borderless continent?
- **Case studies:** histories of illegal immigration and how such have shaped national development in various countries
- **Does the military have a role in saving democracy from itself?** Compare and contrast the military's role in the life of the Weimar Republic and Mohamed Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood rule of Egypt
- **How can the Department of Defense better leverage international military education and training to support U.S. Army activities in geographical regions?**

## **“Sacred Cows”: What Should Go Away But Won't**

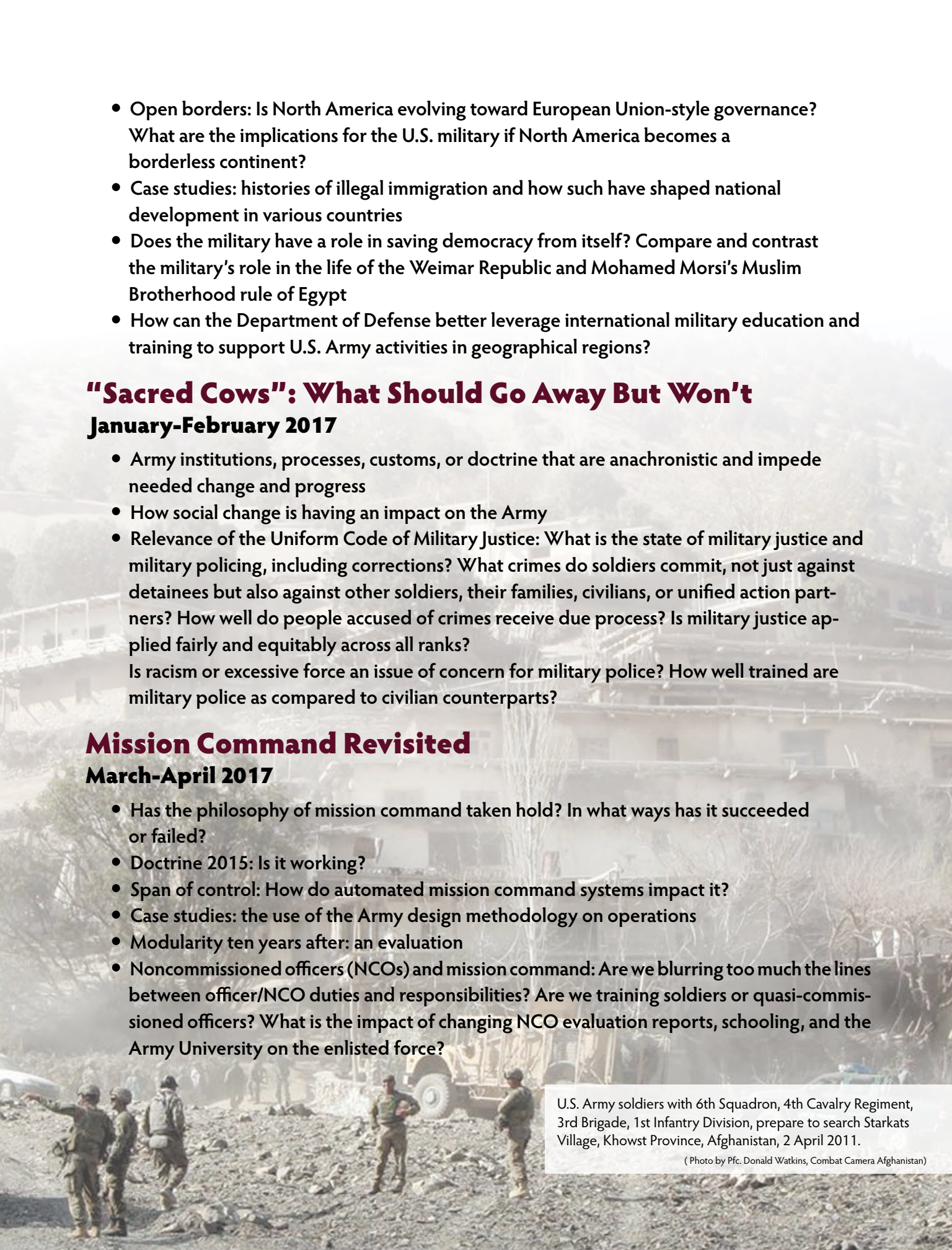
### **January-February 2017**

- **Army institutions, processes, customs, or doctrine that are anachronistic and impede needed change and progress**
- **How social change is having an impact on the Army**
- **Relevance of the Uniform Code of Military Justice: What is the state of military justice and military policing, including corrections? What crimes do soldiers commit, not just against detainees but also against other soldiers, their families, civilians, or unified action partners? How well do people accused of crimes receive due process? Is military justice applied fairly and equitably across all ranks?**  
Is racism or excessive force an issue of concern for military police? How well trained are military police as compared to civilian counterparts?

## **Mission Command Revisited**

### **March-April 2017**

- **Has the philosophy of mission command taken hold? In what ways has it succeeded or failed?**
- **Doctrine 2015: Is it working?**
- **Span of control: How do automated mission command systems impact it?**
- **Case studies: the use of the Army design methodology on operations**
- **Modularity ten years after: an evaluation**
- **Noncommissioned officers (NCOs) and mission command: Are we blurring too much the lines between officer/NCO duties and responsibilities? Are we training soldiers or quasi-commissioned officers? What is the impact of changing NCO evaluation reports, schooling, and the Army University on the enlisted force?**



U.S. Army soldiers with 6th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, prepare to search Starkats Village, Khowst Province, Afghanistan, 2 April 2011.

( Photo by Pfc. Donald Watkins, Combat Camera Afghanistan)