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FOREWORD

Success in the Cold War unleashed a myriad of threats and challenges to the stability of the emerging U.S. inspired global order. Instability portends no good for U.S. national interests or the values on which these interests are founded. Fundamentally, Americans believe in freedom, democracy, and human dignity, and that free enterprise, individual rights, and global security are essential to our pursuit of these basic beliefs. Based on these foundations, the United States and its allies pursued policies and strategies during the last half of the 20th century that exposed the fallacies of communism and created the globalized world order. Fortunately, most of the nations of the world agree with and support the major premises of the current world order; but not all subscribe to it, or support the underlying beliefs that sustain it. Regrettably, in the instability induced by the end of the Cold War and the rapid onslaught of globalism, nonstate actors have emerged to challenge the very fabric of the order. These actors have used the advantages and disadvantages of globalism to conduct asymmetric warfare against the United States and its supporters. Combined with unprecedented natural and manmade disasters, these circumstances challenged U.S. military doctrine and its basic assumptions about the use of military power.

Seemingly slow to recognize and respond to the changes in the strategic environment, the U.S. military profession has once again been criticized by media pundits for trying to fight the last war—suggesting that the military mind is trapped in the 20th century. However, nothing could be further from the truth. It would be more accurate to state that the defense establishment has been perplexed by the multitude of current and future threats and challenges with which it is confronted and the incompatible policies, strategies, and doctrine needed to deal with them. In the force structure and budget debates, arguments are made over the types of forces and technology that will best prepare us for future uncertainty. In the field, current operations have led to a vigorous reconsideration of doctrine and practice. Notwithstanding the sometimes egregious Service partisanship, most military professionals recognize that future demands will span the spectrum of conflict from a stable peace to general war. And, as the papers in this anthology on the use of military power short of general war suggest, the minds of military professionals are reaching out to embrace new ideas indispensable to the restoration and sustainment of stability—ideas that are consistent with the future that has arrived and the core beliefs essential to our existence as a people.



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