

Covid's Impact, Restrictions, Uncertainties Push Annual Meeting To Fall Of Next Year: September 29, 30 & October 1, 2022

AFPAAA's 27th Annual Membership Meeting at Wright-Patterson AFB has been rescheduled from this year to next. The new dates are September 29-October 1, 2022.

"It was the best decision our board could make for all involved – our members, Air Force Material Command, the AF Museum, and the hotel," said AFPAAA president and meeting coordinator Perry Nouis.

"While the vaccines are being distributed now, we can't predict what local, state, and national gathering size, restaurant, mask and other restrictions, as well as those for DoD, will be this Fall," Perry, explained.

"This year, the chance to socialize with our friends – a big part of the fun of attending – and what we might be able to see at Wright-Patt and the museum could be very limited."

"Another consideration in the decision was that the government is advising against unnecessary travel and many individuals are putting trips off until enough people are vaccinated to provide herd immunity. We had to ask ourselves when would that immunity be achieved and there was no answer."

Another imponderable, Perry noted, was how many AFPAAA members would decide to attend this year.

"All the uncertainties made it impossible for the board, AFMC, and the museum to put together a program. We couldn't determine how limited we might be, and when or even if we could get information to our members so they would decide to join us at Wright-Patt."

"Rescheduling to allow sufficient time for most people to be vaccinated

and for things to return to as normal as possible across the country was the way to go," he said.

"The board voted unanimously for the Fall of 2022 for our next Annual Membership Meeting."

Check future News & Notes and AFPAAA's website at afpaaa.org for details as they become available.



Dalton Scholarship Program To Offer Public Affairs Enlisted, Officers, Civilians \$\$\$ For AF Career Skill Enhancing Courses, Workshops

Active, Guard, and Reserve Public Affairs personnel in all specialties will soon have the opportunity to get funds to further develop their duty skills through AFPAAA's new Brigadier General H. J. Dalton, Jr. Scholarship Program.

"We are following something General Dalton advocated throughout his Air Force career and with the Public Relations Society of America," said

Chuck Merlo, who chairs AFPAAA's committee developing the program.

The program will have \$5,000 available each year for band members, broadcasters, visual Information/combat camera, and those in traditional Public Affairs activities. The funds can be used for courses, seminars, and workshops from colleges, universities, and professional institutes and organizations to advance the skills of the recipients in their Air Force specialties.

"The goal is to have as many enlisted, civilians and officers as possible across the entire spectrum of Public Affairs as skilled as possible so they can better serve the Air Force," Merlo explained.

How the program will work – the application format; what, who, and how approval would be granted; the form of

payment and other details are being developed by the committee.

Among the things being considered are: What will the maximum amount of a grant be and how many will offered each year? A maximum individual award of \$1,000 is being considered.

"There could be five grants made each year, or there could be more if the amounts requested are less than \$1,000," Merlo observed. "For example, if the requests that we receive and approve average \$500 then there could be ten awards, it will vary each year."

In addition to Chuck, Art Forster, Doug Kennett, and Carla Sylvester are helping develop the details of the Dalton Scholarship Program.

After AFPAAA Board of Directors approval and coordination with SAF/PA, the program is expected to be ready for roll-out by the end of the year and the first grants made by mid 2022.

The logo features the acronym "PAAA" in a stylized font where the "P" and "A" are connected. Below it, the words "Public Affairs Alumni Association" are written in a serif font, with a trademark symbol (TM) at the end. To the right, the words "News & Notes" are written vertically in a bold, red sans-serif font. At the bottom, the date "April '21" is printed in a smaller, blue sans-serif font.

From The President's Pen

Thankfully, we are starting to come out of the shutdowns and restrictions we have endured for more than a year because of the Covid-19 virus. Normalcy is coming, but it is not yet here for our country or AFPAAA.

Just as many other organizations with annual conventions, celebrations, meetings and sporting events have done, AFPAAA will not meet in 2021. The 27th Annual Membership Meeting will be September 29 & 30, and October 1, 2022.

Careful caution for you, our members, and other factors, detailed in the story on page 1 and on our website, were the basis for making the prudent decision to cancel.

We conferred with Wight-Patt, the Holiday Inn, and the AF Museum. All agreed there were just too many imponderables and uncertainties that couldn't or wouldn't be resolved in time to allow us to meet this year.

It was two years ago when we met in Charleston, South Carolina. Not meeting since then was unavoidable, but the gap between meetings is not good for AFPAAA. Following next year at Wright-Patt our sights are on Tampa, Florida, as we get back to our normal annual meeting schedule in 2023. We'll post the 2022 and 2023 meeting information for you in News & Notes and our afpaaa.org website as it becomes available.

Speaking of the website, if you have not been to it recently, I strongly encourage you to do so. Jim McGuire and John Gura have done a fantastic job in modernizing the look and enhancing the content of the site.

Vote: It is April and time for us to choose six members to begin two-years terms on the AFPAAA Board of Directors. If you are a full member, please be sure to vote by using the ballot on pages 3 and 4, or by going to our website and voting on-line. And, make sure your ballot reaches us by April 30.

This is my last President's Pen. It has been a more than interesting run. To all the members, as well as my colleagues on the Board, your support and forbearance in a most challenging and trying time is deeply appreciated.

– Perry

MAIL ONLY THIS BALLOT - DO NOT ENCLOSE REGISTRATION FORMS, CHECKS, OR OTHER ITEMS

Election - Vote Below For Six Board Members



Julie Briggs is a Life Member of AFPAAC. She was appointed by the Board of Directors to fulfill the second year of Tom Dolney's term when he resigned in 2020. Julie retired from 26 years of active duty in Public Affairs in 2012 as a senior master sergeant. Her assignments included wing and MAJCOM positions in Arizona, Colorado, Guam, South Carolina, Texas, Japan, Iraq, Turkey, and the UK, and at the U.S. Air Force Academy. She was the training department NCO in charge at DINFOS when she left active duty to join the DINFOS faculty and teach the Public Affairs Qualification Course. Julie is a GS-14 and chief of policy, information, and records for the Defense Media Activity.



Jim McGuire served 26 years in the Air Force as a services officer, general's aide, and Public Affairs officer. After PA assignments at numbered air force and major command level, he was the deputy Public Affairs Officer, US Forces Korea, chief of the Air Force Press Desk, and USAFE director of Public Affairs. He retired in 1997 and worked as a stockbroker for Morgan Stanley, a certified financial planner for USAA, and most recently as the director of Volunteer Services for New York's Central Park. He helped develop the new AFPAAC web site and with Hank Hufnagel shared the 2014 Mike McRaney Distinguished Service Award for managing AFPAAC's endowment fund. He and his wife, Carla, also a retired Air Force Public Affairs officer and a member of AFPAAC's Board, live in West Palm Beach, Florida.



Perry Nouis is AFPAAC's President and Annual Membership Meeting coordinator. He retired as a lieutenant colonel in 2005. During his 22 year career his assignments included Director of Public Affairs at the U.S. Air Force Academy and Chief, National Affairs at Hq NORAD/U.S. Space Command. He was commander of American Forces Network-Iraq in 2003 and a DINFOS Public Affairs Instructor and chief of the school's broadcasting division. After retiring, Perry founded a state-licensed assisted living facility in his hometown of Little Falls, Minnesota. He has co-hosted the politically-oriented "Up Front" program on KLTF-AM radio for eight years. Perry and his wife Jean have four children and eight grandchildren.



David Phillips was an Air Force NCO in Public Affairs and broadcasting. He left the AF in 1968 to further his education and earned a PhD in marketing communications. He taught journalism and was the News Bureau Chief at Northern Kentucky University, was marketing director for the U. S. Sports Academy, and worked for the Cincinnati Literacy Network for VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America). In 2003, Dave headed a contractor team at the Army's Training and Doctrine Command that wrote the No Soldier Left Behind document. He helped The Defense Information School to develop the first on-line Public Affairs course. Subsequently, Dave was a senior DINFOS instructor for 10 years in the Public Affairs Leadership Department. He has been an AFPAAC member since 2006.



Phil Ratliff is AFPAAC's Treasurer and has been a past President and Chairman of the Board of AFPAAC. His Air Force career began in 1969. He was in the administration career field for 10 years followed by a tour in Turkey as Aide-de-Camp to the Chief of Staff, CENTO. He began his PA career in 1979 and had assignments that included chief of Public Affairs, 63rd MAW, Norton AFB, California; the Media Relations Branch, SAF/PA; executive to the SAF/PA director, and Air University director of Public Affairs. Phil retired in 1991 as a lieutenant colonel. He then was the regional manager of Wisconsin Physicians Service CHAMPUS Select Program in Alabama and Mississippi, and President and Chief Operating Officer of Henley Memorial Company. Phil is a Lifetime Founder of AFPAAC.



Greg Smith, AFPAAC's Secretary, served more than 22 years in Public Affairs. His assignments included wing, numbered AF, MAJCOM, CINCPAC, and ended as SAF/PA Director of Public Affairs, Midwest Region. He is the only person in Public Affairs to receive the Airman's Medal. For 14 years he was Director Of Public Affairs and Marketing at Camden Clark Regional Medical Center, West Virginia. Greg is a VFW Lifetime Silver Legacy member, a NRA Lifetime Patriot, and has served on local and state civic and not-for-profit organizations' boards of directors. He owns and operates three businesses in West Virginia. He has a MBA from Central Michigan University, a MS in Integrated Marketing Communications from West Virginia University, and attended the state's select Leadership West Virginia program. Greg is an AFPAAC Lifetime Member.

Ballot – AFPAAC Board of Directors Candidates – 2021 Instructions

Only Full Members of AFPAAC in good standing (dues paid) are eligible to vote.
Select or write in up to six names. Please do not enclose any other materials with the ballot.

Julie Briggs **Jim McGuire** **Perry Nouis** **David Phillips** **Phil Ratliff** **Greg Smith**

Other _____

Print Your Name _____ **Signature** _____

Remove entire page, fold in half so address on reverse shows, TAPE Shut - Do Not Staple,
affix stamp, and mail to arrive by midnight Friday, April 30, 2021.



Place
Stamp
Here

**Kathy McCollom
AFPAAA Elections Chairman
5009 Donovan Drive
Alexandria VA 22304-8620**

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AFPAAA Elections Chairman
5009 Donovan Drive
Alexandria VA 22304-8620**

Lord Guard & Guide

Ralph H. Baldwin

Ralph Baldwin, who was a communications cryptologist and AFRTS broadcaster during his 20 year active duty career, passed away comfortably at home shortly before midnight, February 3rd. He succumbed to complications from COPD, Agent Orange, and asbestos dust from being in the Pentagon during the 9/11 attack.



Ralph was from Logan, West Virginia, and enlisted in the Air Force in 1962. Among his assignments were a tour in the Vietnam conflict in 1967-1968.

After retiring from active duty he continued worked for the Air Force as a civilian with AAVS. As a producer/director at Det. 9, 1361AVS (HQ USAF TV Center), Ralph was instrumental in the unit being selected AAVS Detachment of the Year in 1991 when it provided 24/7 support to the fledgling Joint Combat Camera Center during Operation Desert Storm.

Francis Joseph Brown

Frank Brown, who had a 21 year career in Public Affairs, died in January of complications from Alzheimer's disease. He was 88.

Born in Winthrop, Massachusetts, he grew up in Boston. After beginning college at Northeastern University to study business, Frank realized that was not his forte. He started over at Boston University and earned a bachelor's degree from the school of public relations and communications and an AFROTC commission.

While in college he gained hands-on broadcasting experience as an announcer and then a manager at WBUR-FM.

Shortly after graduation he began active duty at Mitchel Field on Long Island, New York. Other assignments during his Air Force career included the Armed Forces Radio Service in France; the Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories (AF-CRL), Hanscom AFB, Massachusetts; SAF/OI, the Pentagon; Udorn Royal Thai AB, Thailand, and Norton AFB, California.

Frank earned an AFIT sponsored master's degree in journalism at Boston University following his AF-CRL assignment. After the Pentagon he was again assigned to AFIT and earned a second master's in film in from the University of Southern California.

His final assignment was at the Aerospace Audiovisual Service, Norton AFB, California, where he produced and directed films in the United States and throughout the world, including Japan, the Philippines, and Taiwan. Frank retired in 1976 as a major.

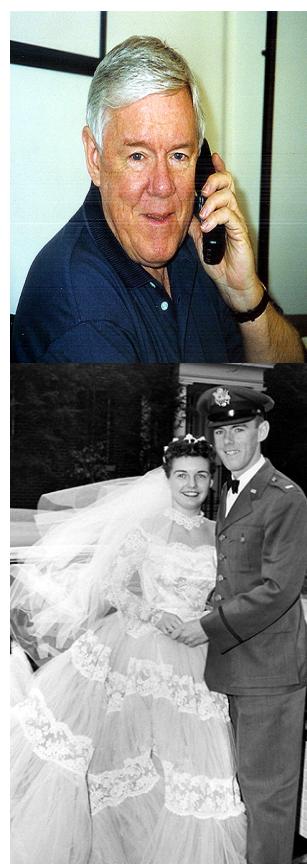
After the Air Force he had several civilian jobs including director of communications for Intertek, producing films at Island View Studios, and in real estate.

Frank and his wife Pat lived on California's Palos Verdes Peninsula for 52 years serving individually and jointly on nu-

merous civic projects. For many years he was the society editor of the Palos Verdes Peninsula News, teaming with Pat to cover a wide variety of events that increased the resident's knowledge of programs available to them.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 65 years, Pat; daughters Francine, Nicole, and Christine; son James, and five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Frank will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery at a future date.



Frank Brown was one of kindest and most thoughtful men I have ever met. I will always remember his bright, sparkling eyes and generous smile. Sandy joins me in hoping that his memory will remain a blessing to his family and to all of us who had the great fortune to have known him.

— Scott & Sandy Weeker

"A renaissance gentleman if there ever was one ... creative, kind, with an exposed funny bone!"

— John Gura

The long wooden canoe had an ancient outboard motor, and we chugged for hours up the broad Batten River in the Philippines. Major Frank Brown and I were on an assignment for AAVS at Norton AFB, where Frank was a senior producer of the Air Force Now film series and I was a green lieutenant. When we got to the small village where we were to shoot a story about an Air Force dentist who volunteered to work with indigenous people, I went to work getting the crew, cameras and lights set up. After a while, I realized Major Brown was nowhere to be seen. I walked around behind some small huts and there was Frank, surrounded by laughing children, telling them stories with hand gestures and smiles. The children were squealing with delight and hugging the tall stranger. I came to understand that Major Frank Brown was a very special man. A remarkable thing about Frank Brown is that every person who met him said pretty much the same thing: what a good and kind man. Frank wrote beautifully, listened carefully, and was always fascinated by the people and things around him. Family and faith were at the center of him, and he radiated warmth wherever he went. Frank loved the Air Force, his country, and life. There aren't many Frank Browns in the world. We could surely use more. But I feel blessed that I knew him, and am grateful mine was one of the many lives he touched.

— Tim White

We knew Frank, a dear friend and fellow Air Force Officer and film producer, and his wife Pat and their wonderful family for 47 years and will miss him tremendously. Frank was an inspiring mentor as a husband and a father. His remarkable intelligence and wit were a source of wisdom and enjoyment for us over the years.

— Mike & Rosie Conaway

Richard Louis Oborn

Rick Oborn, who had a 22 year Air Force career in Intelligence and Public Affairs, died December 5th of advanced Alzheimer's disease with a recent Covid infection at Springmoor's Stewart Health Center, Raleigh, North Carolina. He was 72.

Rick was born in Ames, Iowa. The family lived in Iowa, Indiana, Illinois, Idaho, Wisconsin, and South Carolina, where he graduated from high school. He attended Clemson University graduating with a Bachelor of Arts with honors in English and a commission through AFROTC.



His career in uniform included assignments as an intelligence officer and briefer at Khorat Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand, and Strategic Air Command headquarters, Offutt AFB, Nebraska. The Air Force sent him to the University of Missouri for a Master of Arts degree in Journalism and he became a Public Affairs officer. Subsequent assignments included Hanscom AFB, Massachusetts, and Hickam AFB, Hawaii.

Rick's final assignment was in DoD at the Pentagon where he was Chief, Defense Information, and an advisor to the Undersecretary of Defense for Policy. He retired in 1992 as a Lieutenant Colonel.

He then spent three years with the Department of Energy handling news media relations and coordinating communications issues across major sites and affiliated laboratories. He was the lead spokesperson for defense programs and nuclear material management.

Rick moved to Central Intelligence Agency headquarters as Chief, Media Relations, and then Chief, Strategic Plans and Programs where he prepared senior officials for news media interviews, dealt with reporters, and assisted film producers.

He became Director of Corporate Communications for the National Reconnaissance Office from 1998-2012. At NRO he oversaw public, employee, and corporate information programs and advised its directors on all public communications. He was instrumental in guiding and increasing public openness that prompted positive views of NRO while protecting its classified aspects.

Rick is survived by his wife of 50 years, Clara Jean (C.J.); daughter, Beth; granddaughter Alanna; his sisters Margaret and Julie, and brother Steve.

Remembrances in Rick's name may be sent to Dementia Alliance of North Carolina at <https://dementianc.org/> or to Springmoor Endowment Fund, 1500 Sawmill Road, Raleigh NC 27615.

Rick Oborn was one of our best and brightest Air Force Public Affairs professionals. He was recognized by his seniors, subordinates, and peers as a visionary leader who was at his best when things got tough. He consistently provided reasoned, on-target counsel to U.S. government civilian and military leaders. Perhaps the greatest of his many accomplishments was establishing the public persona of the National Reconnaissance Office – an organization that had been classified and hidden from public view. He carefully crafted, advocated, and implemented a communications strategy that introduced this unique organization to the American public while protecting its sensitive Defense secrets. Rick was smart, energetic, and fun to be around. I much enjoyed our many rounds of golf

together and appreciated his lessons. Farewell old friend – you will be missed by many!

– Art Forster

Rick was sharp as a tack with a kind, pleasant soul. It is sad that Alzheimer's and Covid took him from us.

– Doug Kennett

Rick worked for me in the Directorate of Defense Information at the Pentagon in 1988 where of course he handled issues related to National Intelligence. He was a quiet, unassuming professional whom I could count on to get the job done well. We stayed in touch after I retired in October 1988, and I valued his friendship over the years.

– Dave Shea

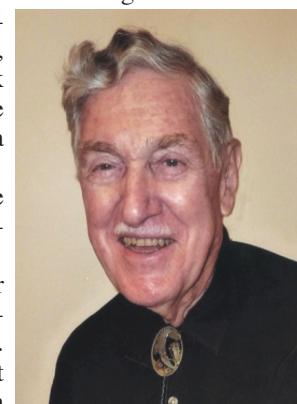
Robert A. Schultz

Bob Schultz, an AFPAAA member who resided in Hampton, Virginia, passed away February 17. He was 92.

He was born in Chicago and entered the Air Force in 1951, became a pilot and flew during the Vietnam conflict. Later in his career he was a Public Affairs officer with assignments that included Hq Air Force Systems Command, Andrews AFB, Maryland, and the 21st Air Division, Hancock Field, New York. A member of the Order of Daedalians, he retired as a lieutenant colonel in 1980.

In his post-Air Force career he was employed by the City of Hampton's Convention Center.

Bob is survived by his daughter Carol and son Neal, two grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. A graveside service will be held at Arlington National Cemetery at a future date.



DeWitt Richard Searles

Dick Searles, who had a 32 year Army Air Force and Air Force career that included six years as an Information Officer, passed away February 27th at his home in McLean, Virginia. He was 100.

He was born in Birmingham, Alabama. Dick graduated from The Bolles School, Jacksonville, Florida, a boys' military academy, in 1939. He attended the College of William and Mary until entering aviation cadet training, graduating as a 2nd lieutenant in 1943.

During WW II he flew 269 missions in P-47 Thunderbolts and P-51 Mustangs in New Guinea and the Philippines, downing three Japanese aircraft.

After the war he remained on active duty. In 1949 he completed an AFIT program, earning a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Maryland. Dick was then assigned to the Pentagon in the Office of Public Information, Office of the Secretary of Defense.

He became chief of the Air Force Press Desk in 1951. In 1953 he was reassigned to Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, as chief of the Office of Information Services for Air Proving Ground Command.

After attending Air Command and Staff College, in 1956 he returned to the cockpit flying the F-86 Sabre, and F-100 Super Sabre.

Subsequent assignments took him to Japan, Okinawa, and the Pentagon. While attending the National War College he earned a master's degree in international relations in 1964 from George Washington University.

Among later assignments were commander, 81st Tactical Fighter Wing, RAF Bentwaters, England, where he was promoted to brigadier general; Tactical Air Command Inspector General, Langley AFB, Virginia; commander, 327th Air Division, Pacific Air Forces, and chief, Air Section, Military Assistance Advisory Group, Republic of China, Taipei, Taiwan.

He was deputy commander, Seventh/Thirteenth Air Force, Udorn Royal Thai AB, Thailand, and completed his career as deputy inspector general, U.S. Air Force. He retired in 1974 as a major general.

Dick began a new career with Merrill Lynch in Northern Virginia, rising from account executive to assistant vice president when he retired in 1987.

The family will hold a graveside services later this year at Arlington National Cemetery. Remembrance donations in Dick's name may be made to the DeWitt R. Searles '39 Endowed Fund at The Bolles School, 7400 San Jose Boulevard, Jacksonville, FL 32217.



Additional Remembrances And Tributes To Harry J. 'Jerry' Dalton, Jr.

Jerry Dalton revolutionized Air Force Public Affairs for all of us. He was a real help to me personally as I prepared to follow him as SAF/PA director. Jerry was a true professional as an Air Force officer and public relations practitioner. Of greater importance, he was caring, compassionate, and a man who lived a life of faith. God bless you Jerry.

— Dick Abel

"If you don't think this is a tough business, consider this: When I started in it, I was six foot six and weighed 250 pounds." That was a typical opening to one of General Dalton's speeches as an advocate for all of us in the profession. Another was, "At his farewell luncheon my boss at SAC called me a 'Model Public Information Officer.' Since we had often not seen eye to eye, afterwards I thanked him profusely for his kind words. He said, 'Don't get a big head. Look it up.' I did. I found that the definition of 'model' is 'a small replica of the real thing.'" Such was General Dalton's gift of using the language, humor, experience, and even his own stature to advance our career field, and in turn, each one of us. All of us who knew him personally admired his boundless energy, creativity, and dedication to illuminating our importance to the Air Force as our Director, and later enhancing the understanding of our value to the business world as President of the Public Relations Society of America. Despite his stature, he was a giant in our world, and an expert advocate for all of us. Rest in peace, Fearless Leader. Even for those whom you did not know personally, generations have benefitted, and will continue to benefit from your pioneering pathway. Heaven has a new advocate in its ranks.

— Ral Aars

General Dalton led by example. His concern for the public affairs career field was always foremost in his mind and his successes are well-known. A career Public Affairs officer, he defied the odds of moving from second lieutenant through the ranks to general officer. He was a visionary who created and implemented programs that built understanding and support for the Air Force. He was highly instrumental in turning Public Affairs into a thoroughly profession career field. We all owe him our gratitude and thanks. RIP, General Dalton.

— Gene Sands

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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE



Welcome Aboard . . . to new members James Cunningham, Joseph 'Doc' Mills, and James Heaberg.

New Life Members . . . Eric Grill, Stephen Krant, Dean Miller, Jason Tudor, Kelly Stewart, and Vic Warzinski.

There's A Lotta Good Readin' . . . in three Air University publications. The Spring issue of *Strategic Studies Quarterly* - www.airuniversity.af.edu/SSQ/source/GovD/ - packs pieces that include "The Missile Defense 'Arms Race' Myth" which

addresses will increasing America's missile defense lead to an arms race? and "Europe as a Secondary Theater? Competition with China and the Future of America's European Strategy" discusses the effects of Sino-American competition. A special issue of the *Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs* titled Russian Influence in South Asia - www.airuniversity.af.edu/JIPA/Display/Article/2473408/volume-04-issue-01-special-issue/source/GovD/ - focuses on an area where Russia is seeking to expand its influence. You'll find *Air & Space Power Journal's* Winter issue - www.airuniversity.af.edu/ASPJ/ - devoted to Information Warfare (IW). A not widely understood aspect of military operations, that China, Russia, and others are emphasizing, IW is a rapidly growing critical factor for military deterrence and combat success. A wide range of aspects of IW are covered in articles that include "Information Warfare: Tuning Our Instruments to Overcome Barriers to Battlefield Harmony"; "Empowering the Information Warrior: Unlocking the Latent Value of This Strategic Asset"; and "Achieving Convergence in the Information Environment: Revising the Air Component Structure".