



From the Chairman and Executive Editor

This issue is devoted to the annual Hirsch Research Paper Competition sponsored by our partner organization, the Defense Acquisition University Alumni Association (DAUAA, www.dauaa.org). For 2012, the competition was entitled “Doing More Without More: Government and Industry Imperatives for Achieving Acquisition Efficiencies.” Sharp-eyed readers will note that “do more with more” was the direction given to defense acquisition professionals in 2010 by Dr. Ashton Carter, then-Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, as he unveiled the department’s Better Buying Power Initiatives (BBPI).¹

As part of the ongoing effort to better support BBPI, DAU has developed a list of suggested research topics, based on inputs from subject matter experts across defense acquisition sectors. This research agenda is intended to make researchers aware of the topics that are, or should be, of particular concern to the broader defense acquisition community throughout the government, academic, and industrial sectors. In each issue of the *Defense ARJ*, we shall excerpt a portion of this agenda. The full agenda, which is updated regularly, may be found at: <http://www.dau.mil/research/Pages/researchareas.aspx>

The papers submitted for the 2012 competition were selected from a strong field of candidates, and many of the other papers will be published in upcoming issues. First prize went to “Enhancing Cost Realism through Risk-Driven Contracting” by Sean Dorey, Josef Oehmen, and Ricardo Valerdi, who propose risk-driven contract incentives to hold contractors and the government accountable for the realism of system development proposals. Second prize went to “Managing Life-Cycle Information of Aircraft Components” by Geraldo Ferrer and Aruna U. Apte, who describe how modern logistics management systems like Item-Unique Identification (IUID) and Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) can increase operational availability. Third prize went to “RAH-66

Comanche–The Self-Inflicted Termination” by Julien Demotes-Mainard (who, we should note, is the first international author to win a DAUAA research paper award), which ascribes the demise of the Army’s premier scout/attack helicopter program to a decrease in political support. We congratulate all the authors on their selection for the prestigious DAUAA prizes.

The Association of the United States Army also awards prizes, one of which went to John Lemondes’ paper “The Case for Professional Pay in the Army Acquisition Corps,” which he wrote while at the International College of the Armed Forces, which forms part of the National Defense University. We are pleased to publish it as the *Defense ARJ*’s first online article. (We note here that the new contributors’ guidelines now allow for longer articles—up to 10,000 words—to be submitted. Longer articles may appear in the online edition of the *Defense ARJ*, with the abstract and keywords appearing in the print edition.)

Rounding out this issue is Roy Wood’s review of *Rearming for the Cold War, 1945–1960* by Elliott Converse III, a new publication by the Historical Office of the Office of the Secretary of Defense that explores the roots of the defense acquisition organization and processes we use today.



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