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From the Editor

Welcome to the Spring 2017 issue of *CTX*. Our production process has gone through some changes over the last two quarters, and we will publish fewer issues in Volume 7 (2017) than in previous years. That does not mean, however, that the quality of the articles and columns we publish will be affected in any way, except as we continually try to improve the journal based on what you, our readers, tell us about what you want to read. We've gotten quite a bit of feedback on the November 2016 special issue (Volume 6, number 4), which was devoted to the topic of hybrid warfare and how the NATO alliance should prepare to respond when members are threatened by means other than armed force. We'd love to hear from you at CTXeditor@GlobalECCO.org or on Facebook whenever you read something in *CTX* that sparks your interest, raises questions, or demands a response. After all, you're the reason we publish *CTX*.

The first article in this issue comes from Vera Mironova, in collaboration with Mohammed Hussein, based on her firsthand observations in Iraq and personal interviews with former ISIS members. Mironova is a terrorism expert whose research focuses on the ways in which terrorist groups organize their labor requirements. Here she describes how the decline in ISIS's fortunes is forcing the group to turn to imprisonment and coercion to man its frontlines and keep its war machine running.

The next two articles examine terrorism in the maritime domain. First is Paul Shemella's discussion of the potential for terrorist activity in and around the Mediterranean Sea by al Qaeda, ISIS, and their supporters. Many observers warn that as the fighting across Syria and Iraq turns against ISIS, and as the Caliphate project crumbles, extremists will look for ways to retaliate against "soft" targets through acts of terror. Shemella examines a multitude of vulnerabilities in the Mediterranean region, from shipping, transport, and tourism, to oil production and port operations. With the addition of the refugee crisis and the rise of anti-EU nationalism, European governments are finding it increasingly difficult to cooperate on finding solutions.

The second of our maritime articles deals with the rising danger posed to critical port facilities by unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs, or "drones"). Port security expert John Caton uses an analytical tool developed by the US Coast Guard to evaluate the threat that drones pose to port operations, based on the actual

profile of a major port on the US West Coast. Although his discussion of possible countermeasures draws on the security and legal environment in the United States, Caton's analysis could be adapted to major ports in most of the world.

Next, Jonathan Nagle explores the similarities between ISIS and the American millennialist Christian sect called the Branch Davidians. When the Davidians began stockpiling arms, US law enforcement agencies ignored advice from experts who urged them to take their time to understand the group's motivations. The result was a tragedy that, Nagle warns, is being repeated on a global scale by the West's failure to understand the influence of Salafist millennialism on ISIS's leaders and followers.

The final article, by Anders Westberg, describes the rapid rise of violent criminal motorcycle gangs in Sweden, and the struggle of the Swedish polity to adapt its laws—and attitudes—to confront this expanding threat.

We have two CTAP interviews for you in this issue. In the first, Vera Mironova delves further into her research on how ISIS is managing its labor force as the wars in Syria and Iraq turn against it. With the ideologues dead, the conscripts running away, and no more money to lure mercenaries, how can the ISIS human resources division keep the ranks filled? The second interview is with Bruce Hoffman, who has been researching and writing on a wide range of terrorism-related topics since the late 1970s. He and interviewer Michael Freeman explore the reasons why terrorism persists as a useful tool for political outsiders despite claims that "it doesn't work." They also discuss what distinguishes today's terrorist organizations from their historical predecessors and whether the US-led military coalition that is fighting ISIS has learned anything from its past experience with al Qaeda (the answer, according to Hoffman is "no").

In the Ethics and Insights column, George Lober asks readers to ponder the importance of honor and truth and the role of the "silent professional" in military culture. As he has done in all of his columns for *CTX* over the years, Lober zeroes in on the moral and ethical paradoxes that military service presents to the people who fight for their country. Lober recently retired from teaching at the US Naval Postgraduate School but promised he would continue contributing to *CTX* as his writing schedule allows. His ethics columns have been a highlight of this journal since its founding, and we intend to hold him to that promise.

Our book review comes from Fatih Celenay, who discusses David Kilcullen's book *Out of the Mountains: The Coming Age of the Urban Guerrilla*. And in the Publications section, you will find a number of new titles from the Joint Special Operations University to peruse.

We encourage you again to send your article submissions, comments, and questions to CTXeditor@GlobalECCO.org. You can follow *CTX* and join in discussions with your fellow readers on Facebook at Global ECCO. We look forward to hearing from you.

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