

Editorial

The Journal of Military and Strategic Studies is among the oldest academic electronic journals in Canada, and also among the first international periodicals in this field. It published its first issue in 1998. The JMSS produced one or two issues per year up to 2004; starting that year it has published four issues per year. The journal is an open access and peer reviewed publication that aims to disseminate original scholarship in strategic and military studies to an academic audience, and also a public one, both nationally and internationally, and to provide a forum for the discussion of issues related to Canadian security, broadly defined. It approaches these topics from an academic position, open to all sectors of opinion, rather than one of advocacy. It includes editorials, independent and critical, on matters of current affairs, but its editorial stance is distinct from its academic one. The JMSS adopted an electronic and fully open-access format from the start, because that medium provides an unprecedented opportunity to bring original scholarship to a public audience, and also allows timely and rapid dissemination of results, so maximizing the chance for academic work to affect attitudes and behaviour. From the start, the JMSS has sought to take scholarship from the ivory tower and bring it to public attention, in order to affect debate and decisions. The JMSS also supports the ideals of the open access movement, aiming to eliminate barriers to the dissemination of scholarship, and to make research open, free and permanently available through the internet to all potential users.

The JMSS is unique in both its audience and its articles. It aims to reach academics and students, but even more, it seeks to bring scholarly work to the attention of a popular audience, and also to one of government officials and military personnel. The JMSS is the only academic journal (print or electronic) in Canada to focus on the topics that it does, and the only electronic journal in the world to provide a forum for

topics of Canadian security policy. It also is one of the few electronic journals to publish academic pieces on strategic studies in general, or on Canadian foreign and defence policy. Though military studies journals now routinely appear in electronic open-access forms, the JMSS is one of the few journals to treat those topics from an academic perspective. Its focus is deliberately wide. The JMSS publishes articles in several sub fields, especially strategic studies, international relations, military studies and Canadian foreign and defence policy. However, it also routinely publishes articles on the interrelationship between military and strategic matters, and human security, international development, and international and non-governmental organisations. It particularly promotes work which is interdisciplinary in nature, such as treating matters of military studies from an academic perspective. The JMSS endeavors to address issues on the leading edge of Canadian public policy, especially as regards defence and diplomacy; with a willingness to consider papers written by students who are emerging leaders in our field.

Our audience is large. As of this 2009, we have a list of 2126 subscribers, compared to 1300 in June 2004. Our subscribers include academics, students, journalists, and government and military officials in Canada and abroad. The number of individual readers who accessed the journal rose 500% between 2003 and 2008, and the number of readers, and of articles downloaded, has continued to rise by about 15% annually since then. In the past twelve months, we had approximately 105,000 sessions and 9500 downloads. This shows that we have both a mature audience, and also a steadily rising one. Judging by the internet addresses of the people accessing our pages, our readership breaks down equally into Canadian, American and European readers, with smaller groups from Asia and Australia. This suggests a significant and growing international impact. As well, 25% of our hits come direct to JMSS from subscribers, while 75% come from people who are not subscribers—that is, although our subscription list is large, even so, three times as many non-subscribers access our articles as subscribers.

The JMSS now is taking the third major step in its evolution. The first of these steps, under the leadership of its first editor, Robert Huebert, was to begin publication in 1998 in order to try to create a presence in what then were waters uncharted for academe. Dr. Huebert's initial aim was simply to find out what could be done in the

medium of the internet, and do it. Though one of the hopes always was to create an electronic academic journal, Rob knew that would not be easy to do, and it was not. He began with the aim of building an audience, particularly focused on students, the public and government officials, among whom the journal quickly built a large subscription base, demonstrating interest in the field and giving us access to readers who could not be reached by conventional modes of disseminating scholarship. The second of these steps occurred in 2003, under the leadership of John Ferris and Jim Keeley, when we decided that electronic academic journals soon would become an accepted medium for the dissemination of scholarship in the fields where we worked, while the number and quality of submissions we were receiving were rising steadily. As a result, we chose to raise our standards for publication to those of a good print academic journal, thus becoming a purely academic journal as well as an electronic one, but still with an unusual ability to bring scholarship to the attention of audiences beyond the ivory tower. We also chose to increase substantially our rate of publication, to a standard publishing cycle of four issues per year. We were among the first journals in the world to publish peer reviewed, high quality and original works in strategic studies on an open access model, and among the very first journals to publish such works by historians.

Our new aim, under the leadership of John Ferris, Jim Keeley and Terry Terriff, is to make *The Journal of Military and Strategic Studies* the journal of record in Canadian security policy, and the best electronic open access journal in the world on issues of strategic and military studies. It will be an open access and peer reviewed publication. Its mandate is to encourage the creation of original scholarship in strategic and military studies, to disseminate that material to an academic audience and to a public one, both nationally and internationally, and to provide a forum for the discussion of issues related to Canadian security, broadly defined.

As part of this next evolution, as readers will have already noticed, we have redesigned the on-line presentation and format of the journal, moving to the Open Journal System. Further, we are instituting an electronic submission and review system. Information about the new submission procedures can be found under 'Information for Authors'. The editors would like express their sincerest and deepest

gratitude to the fourth member of the journal team, Nancy Pearson Mackie, Managing Editor, for her hard work in making these changes happen, as well as for her tireless contributions to the journal over the many past years.

As part of this evolution, we are seeking contributions for an innovative new section of the JMSS. “Notes from the Field” is designed to provide a forum for practitioners, whether they are military or civilian, government or non government, who are working out on the ground and interested in adding to the public debate. We intend this new section to provide an avenue for such individuals to voice their opinions and insights, and even lessons learned, based on their ground experiences. A submission should be between 1000 and 5000 words and should deal with some aspect of the military and security field from a practitioner’s perspective. The final decision for publication rests with the JMSS editors. We encourage you to participate in this unique section.

This issue of the *Journal of Military and Strategic Studies* presents three articles, by Scott Fitzsimmons on the norm against mercenaries, by Tal Tovy on targeted killings as a measure in counter-guerrilla and anti-terror operations, and Angélique Scharine, Tomasz Letowski and James Sampson on auditory situation awareness in urban operations.

This issue also presents the three award-winning papers and an honourable mention in the *Journal’s* annual student’s paper competition. Our first-place writer, Renee Black of the University of Ottawa, asks where UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000), on Women, Peace and Security, has affected later Security Council resolutions. Second, Meghan O’Keefe of the University of Ottawa, applies realist theory to environmental aspects of domestic conflicts. Third, Eric Jardine of Carleton University, using the British experience in the Malayan Emergency, argues that time works against counter-insurgency efforts. We also have an honourable mention paper, with lead author Derek MacIsaac of the Canadian Forces Primary Reserve and currently at the University of Calgary, looking at anthropological methods in studying the Canadian Forces Reserve.

