

Introducing *PRISM*

National Defense University (NDU) is pleased to introduce *PRISM*, a complex operations journal. *PRISM* will explore, promote, and debate emerging thought and best practices as civilian capacity increases in operations in order to address challenges in stability, reconstruction, security, counterinsurgency, and irregular warfare. *PRISM* complements *Joint Force Quarterly*, introduced by General Colin Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, 16 years ago to similarly advance joint force integration and understanding.

PRISM welcomes articles on a broad range of complex operations issues, especially those that focus on the nexus of civil-military integration. The journal will be published four times a year both online and in hardcopy. It will debut in December 2009. *PRISM* is supported by an interactive Web site that allows readers to search past issues, submit manuscripts, provide subject matter feedback, and post letters to the editor.

The editors of *PRISM* evaluate submitted manuscripts with the following criteria: topical relevance, continuing education for national security professionals, scholarly standards of evidence and argumentation, and readability. Few submissions are rejected on the grounds that they lie beyond the journal's purview. Far more frequently, manuscripts fail to pass the "So what?" test. Even if an article is factually accurate and criticism is delivered with precision, does the author recommend clear solutions, or arm the reader with actionable education? Be aggressive in seeking out and identifying problems that should be fixed irrespective of agency perspective, conventional wisdom, or published doctrine.

PRISM is chartered by the Center for Complex Operations (CCO), which was established to (1) provide for effective coordination in the preparation of Department of Defense personnel and other U.S. Government personnel for complex operations; (2) foster unity of effort during complex operations among the departments and agencies of the U.S. Government, foreign governments and militaries, international organizations and international nongovernmental organizations, and domestic nongovernmental organizations; (3) conduct research, collect, analyze, and distribute lessons learned, and compile best practices in matters relating to complex operations; and (4) identify gaps in the education and training of Department of Defense personnel and other U.S. Government personnel relating to complex operations, and facilitate efforts to fill such gaps. CCO is established within the Center for Technology and National Security Policy at NDU.

Manuscripts submitted to *PRISM* should be between 2,500 and 6,000 words in length and sent via email to prism@ndu.edu.

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