Happy New Year!

As I reflect on 2014, I am thankful for the opportunity to serve as the editor-in-chief of such a prestigious publication and as the director of a professional organization filled with dedicated and talented staff. The editors, visual information specialists, administrative personnel, and soldiers of Military Review have worked tirelessly together to make extensive improvements in our journal since I grabbed the reins almost 18 months ago. They possess the vision, creativity, and expertise to take this organization to even greater heights in 2015.

The leadership at the Combined Arms Center (CAC) and Leader Development and Education (LD&E) also played an important role in our success by allowing us the latitude to follow our instincts and find our own direction, and we certainly did that in this edition. The January-February issue features an article from outgoing Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel on the challenges he has faced reshaping the military—the Army specifically—in an era of austerity. Lt. Gen. Joseph Anderson, commander, International Security Assistance Force Joint Command and deputy commanding general, U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, contributes a piece as well that captures the challenges faced by the final three-star operational headquarters in theater during its transition over the last year. Additionally, Col. Tom Hanson, Director of the Combat Studies Institute, provides a very intuitive review essay that juxtaposes two books on the South Vietnamese Army’s 1971 invasion of Laos.

In my past letters to our readers, I’ve emphasized the importance of writing as a way to not only tell the Army story, but to pass along lessons learned, facilitate the creation of new doctrine, and simply to document experiences for historical purposes. “On Writing: Why We Write,” an article by blogger Doctrine Man, really puts this into context. You can find it on his website, The Pendulum, at https://medium.com/@Doctrine_Man/on-writing-10c2f650109b.

The Army Press will soon be open for business with the roll out of the Army University later this year. As we move closer to the opening, we will provide a link to a new website that will house an Army Press publication platform as well as links to numerous Army Press products, Centers of Excellence and Department of Defense publications, and other military forums. Changes are coming; stay tuned for more information about the Army Press and how it will benefit the Army University and the Army. The team at Military Review wishes you a safe and prosperous new year!
Hovering with only the rear wheels touching the edge of a cliff, pilots from the 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, perform a maneuver called a pinnacle in a CH-47F Chinook helicopter during a training flight 26 August 2010.

(Photo by Staff Sgt. Nathan Hoskins, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade PAO, 1st Cavalry Division)