Call for Papers: American Use of Strategic Landpower Since 9/11

The U.S. Army War College seeks papers for a conference on “American Use of Strategic Landpower since 9/11” to be held at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, from 2-4 December 2015.

In the decade following America’s involvement in the War in Vietnam, Col. Harry Summers—a researcher in the War College’s Strategic Studies Institute—analyzed the Army’s performance in that conflict. His On Strategy: The Vietnam War in Context (1982) was a controversial landmark study of the use of military force, particularly landpower. In the spirit of On Strategy, the War College now seeks to examine the American use of landpower since the terror attacks of 11 September 2001 through multiple strategic perspectives.

Army Doctrine Reference Publication 3-0 defines landpower as “the ability—by threat, force, or occupation—to gain, sustain and exploit control over land, resources, and people.” The employment of strategic landpower thus seeks to accomplish these tasks in pursuit of policy ends.

There are many possible paper topics associated with strategic landpower. They include: the evolving nature of war; strategic analysis of Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom; perspectives of regional combatant commands and theater armies; landpower issues associated with the reserve components and institutional army; ground force modernization and transformation; civil-military relations; roles of the inter-agency and non-governmental organizations; and law and ethics of war. This is far from an exhaustive list, and the War College welcomes all serious proposals on relevant topics.

DETAILS RELATED TO SUBMISSIONS: Panels are preferred, but individual papers will be considered for acceptance. Panel presentations will last 90 minutes and consist of 20-minute (each) presentations from three panelists, a 10-minute synthesis from the moderator/commentator, and a 15-minute question-and-answer period. Panel abstracts must include an abbreviated curriculum vitae (no more than 3 pages) for all participants. The War College will announce the accepted panels and papers no later than 30 September. Selected participants will submit their fully annotated final papers of 3,000-5,000 words to the below email address one week prior to the conference.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: Submit an abstract (no more than 250 words) for a proposed panel or individual paper by 15 August 2015 to Maj. Jason Warren, Ph.D., at jason.w.warren.mil@mail.mil.