MCUP publishes JAMS on topics of concern to the Marine Corps and the Department of Defense through the lens of various disciplines, including international relations, political science, security studies, and political economics.

Our Spring 2024 issue will have a broadly construed theme: The Militarization of Space.

This issue will address the increasing interest in and threat of militarization of space by a myriad of nations. Some historians maintain the military use of space began with the Soviet Sputnik crisis in October 1957. The ability to militarize space has certainly advanced considerably since then. Currently, the U.S. Department of Defense’s 2020 Defense Space Strategy recognizes space as a unique sphere of national military power: “Space is now a distinct warfighting domain, demanding enterprise-wide changes to policies, strategies, operations, investments, capabilities, and expertise for a new strategic environment.”

China, Russia, and India are just a few of the countries involved in the militarization of space. They are developing or have developed weapons such as antisatellite missiles, jammers and cyberattacks, satellites intercepting other satellites to disrupt or destroy them, as well as other types of kinetic and nonkinetic weapons. Authors are encouraged to explore this issue from a variety of perspectives, such as whether it is possible at this date to deescalate the situation or whether outer space has now become the new domain of warfare. Additionally, authors are encouraged to explore both contemporary and historical facets of the militarization of space. A discussion of new and emerging technologies related to the militarization of space is also encouraged, including discussions of astro-politics, crowd funding and private corporation involvement, the commercialization of space technologies, and nonstate and small state efforts.

Given that the United Nations treaty on space, colloquially called the Outer Space Treaty, established that space shall be freely explored and used by all nations and precluded any country from claiming sovereignty over outer space or any celestial body, what are the implications for the current militarization of space? Considering contemporary and historical examples of space-based military conflict and potential conflict, are there solutions—diplomatic and military—that can be explored by the United States, its allies, and its adversaries?

JAMS is a peer-reviewed journal on the Commandant’s Professional Reading List, and submissions should be 4,000–10,000 words, footnoted, and formatted according to Chicago Manual of Style (17th edition). Junior faculty and advanced graduate students are encouraged to submit. MCUP is also looking for book reviewers from international studies, political science, and contemporary history fields.

To receive a copy of the journal or to discuss an article idea or book review, please contact MCU_Press@usmcu.edu.