

PREFACE

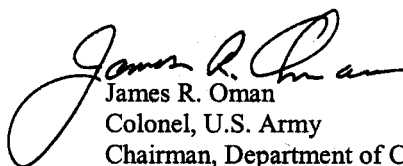
This is the 24th edition of the U.S. Army War College text designed to explain and synthesize the complex functioning and relationships of the numerous Defense, Joint, and Army organizations, systems, and processes. It is designed to improve your understanding of "How the Army Runs." Although the primary audience of this text is the Army War College students and faculty, the Army War College recognizes the value that senior commanders and staffs have placed in this text over the years. We are proud to continue its publication in support of its widespread popularity and utility.

Every two years we revise this text and strive to incorporate the most updated information on existing DOD, Army, and Joint organizations, systems, and processes. This requires the synthesis of an impressive array of regulations, manuals, pamphlets, standard operating procedures, policy memorandums, directives, organizational charts, web sites, and many, many more references. Moreover, the current unprecedented dynamic organizational environment made the publication of this text particularly challenging. Correspondingly, some of the organizations, systems, and processes described herein were still being staffed, tested, refined, or pending examination and reform when this text went to print. When possible, we attempted to capture these changes with our best description of the evolving changes as of April 1, 2003. Undoubtedly, there are instances where our interpretations were distorted or our predictions inaccurate. Because of this, we caution the reader that there may be some inaccuracies or the described system may have subsequently evolved from the descriptions in the text.

We also encourage those practitioners who use this text to help contribute to its continued development and improvement. Please send your recommendations for changes and improvements to the Department of Command, Leadership, and Management, U.S. Army War College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013-5240, ATTN: Editor, Professor Harold Lord (e-mail: Harold.Lord@carlisle.army.mil). Readers can also access the text on the worldwide web at <http://carlisle-www.army.mil/usawc/dclm/linkedtextchapters.htm>.

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