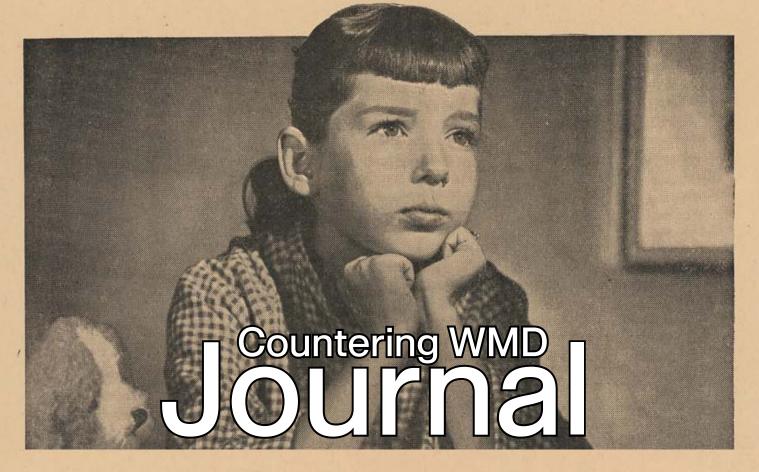
"Mummy, what happens to us if the bomb drops?"



The Countering WMD Journal is currently considering all submissions for publication in Issue 30 which will have a theme of Lessons (Re)learned and is due to be published in July 2025. The deadline for consideration for publication in Issue 30 is April 18, 2025.

We often hear leaders talk about how Services and theater commanders used to train and prepare their forces during the Cold War as an analogue for many of the problems we face today. There is clearly wisdom in looking to hard-won lessons from decades of superpower competition. But re-adopting old practices uncritically is an approach that is also fraught with risk.

The Cold War ended three decades ago, in an analog world of network television, land-line telephones and paper maps. The global security environment has since evolved toward multipolar great power competition; nations conduct their business within an ungovernable global commons rife with misinformation and disinformation. Big data algorithms and machine learning/Al-enabled autonomous systems proliferate across all physical warfighting domains, promising to radically change the environment in which future wars are fought.

With all of this in mind, how helpful is it to brush off the history books to gain insight into what is coming next? If the past is not the best guide, where else do we focus our gaze?

In this issue, we want to showcase articles that consider the validity of lessons from the past and match them against what we are learning about future warfighting challenges. Are the lessons we are (re)learning today really fundamentally new?



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