Editorial: Logistics, Sustainment and Installations

Careful readers of the Gazette might notice that we have not published a Logistics focus edition since October of 2017. This hiatus has allowed us to coordinate better support for DC I&L, the Deputy Commandant for Installations and Logistics, by aligning the content of the professional journal with I&L’s advocacy and advisory functions, and the annual logistics community’s excellence awards program. The annual Logistics edition returns this month with a series of sixteen articles in print. Readers will find additional articles on our website. Our content this month covers a wide range of ideas and issues across both the logistics enterprise and installation functions.

Setting the tone of much of this content, we present a letter on page 8 from DC I&L, LtGen Charles G. Chiarotti, and “An Operational Concept for Future Logistics Development” by the I&L Vision and Strategy Group on page 9. These pieces outline the current state of MAGTF logistics and provide a forward look at logistics innovation. An aspect of innovation in logistics and sustainment involves the potential military applications of “artificial intelligence,” or more accurately “machine learning,” and heuristic algorithms. However, the effectiveness of these potential applications is always dependent on the accuracy, completeness, and interoperability of the data that the system is built upon. Challenges and opportunities in this area are discussed in “You Need Clean Data” by Maj Amber Coleman on page 12 and “Data-Driven Logistics” by LtCol Kirk Spangenberg et al., on page 19.

Since the establishment of Marine Corps Installation Command (MCICOM) in 2011, the Corps has adopted the concept of installations (bases and stations) as platforms for sustaining and deploying operational forces. “Installation—neXt” by Col A. Ché Bolden on page 60 analyzes the future of this approach. A critical vulnerability of our installations is explored on page 66 in “The Mission Criticality of Energy Resilience” by Randy J. Monahan.

In addition to the extensive discussion of logistics, we also present on page 72, GySgt Alfred Negron II’s article, “The Castle Must Fall,” a critical analysis of the organization of combat engineers and recommendations to improve engineering and interoperability of the data that the system is built upon. Challenges and opportunities in this area are discussed in “You Need Clean Data” by Maj Amber Coleman on page 12 and “Data-Driven Logistics” by LtCol Kirk Spangenberg et al., on page 19.

In our professional association and engage on the important issues facing our Corps today.

Christopher Woodbridge