



12th Annual SO/LIC Essay Contest

Co-sponsored by:
Joint Special Operations University (JSOU)
and
National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA)
Special Operations/Low Intensity Conflict (SO/LIC) Division

The President of JSOU and the NDIA SO/LIC Division are pleased to announce the 12th Annual SO/LIC Essay Contest. The contest is being conducted in conjunction with, and in support of, the 28th Annual SO/LIC Symposium & Exhibition, to be held February 14-16, 2017 at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, Bethesda, Maryland. Additional details concerning the symposium may be found on the event website at: <http://www.ndia.org/meetings/7880>.

The theme of this year's symposium is: *Special Operations Forces (SOF) requirements for coalition and interagency conflict/operations.*

The complexity of modern global conflict will require the United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) to engage in extensive joint, combined and interagency operations to achieve national military and strategic objectives. USSOCOM must now leverage emerging and innovative technologies as never before to link and share information with Allies, US Intelligence community members and interagency law enforcement partners as well as an array of disparate players to rapidly understand and exploit adversaries' weaknesses on the global commons. No longer is conflict confined simply to the battlefield, it reaches instantaneously from the conflict zone to our board rooms, our communities, and even to our children's play grounds. To meet this threat, we require a new paradigm in which US and international law enforcement, intelligence organizations, and Special Operations Forces (SOF) become one unified force; networked and connected as never before. As SOF become more lethal to the enemy, they must leverage and potentially add what may have been traditionally viewed as law enforcement techniques, tactics and procedures to their skill sets. Achieving this demands American Industry actively engage with the SOF and Special Law Enforcement communities to anticipate their needs creating a collaborative innovative eco-system where ideas are nurtured and developed to give our operators all they need to dominate this global struggle.

In a unique Washington-based Government-Industry forum, the 28th Annual SO/LIC Symposium & Exhibition will explore requirements, options and potential statutory/policy/technology solutions to support persistent SOF operations across the globe. The symposium will feature senior-level Speakers, decision-makers, and subject-matter experts from throughout the SO/LIC community.

Entrants are encouraged to address the symposium theme, but any topic relevant to the broad range of SO/LIC activities is acceptable. The Selection Board will award a \$1,000 prize for the best essay and \$500 for the runner-up. If a winning essay has multiple authors, they will share the award and one representative will attend the banquet). Essay winners will be recognized during the Annual Awards Banquet on Tuesday evening, February 14, 2017. Winning essays will be distributed onsite to symposium attendees and will be published with the NDIA symposium proceedings. In addition, winning essays may be selected for publication as a JSOU Press monograph. The Selection Board retains the right to award no prize.

Entries must be submitted **NLT Friday, December 9, 2016**. Winners will be notified on or around Friday, December 16, 2015.

Eligibility

This contest is open to students enrolled or graduated from a DOD-sponsored PME program or course during FY16 or FY17. Eligible institutions include intermediate staff schools, senior service colleges, DOD regional centers, as well as Senior NCO Academies. An Entrant is also eligible if he/she is enrolled in, or graduated within the past year from, resident PME programs, nonresident PME programs, the Special Operations Master's Degree Program at the Naval Postgraduate School, the Master of Arts in Strategic Security Studies program offered through the National Defense University's College of International Security Affairs, or any programs of the Joint Special Operations University.

Essay Requirements

Essays may not exceed 3,500 words, including quoted matter and citations, and must remain unclassified (do not submit For Official Use Only material). Endnotes should be used sparingly, if at all and if deemed necessary; do not use footnotes. Include a short, one paragraph biography that identifies the school or program you attended in FY16 or FY17. For those who are currently attending PME, we ask that you also inform your faculty representative that you have submitted an essay.

Selection Criteria

Essays will be judged according to the following criteria:

1. Originality, relevance, and coherence of the argument—10 points max.
2. Clear, logical organization—3 points max.
3. Compelling and competent prose—2 points max.

Submission

Essays may be emailed to JSOU Press Editor in Chief, Mr. Robert Nalepa, at: robert.nalepa@socom.mil

Electronic transmission is preferred, but Entrants may also mail to:

JSOU Press, Attn: Mr. Robert Nalepa

7701 Tampa Point Blvd.

MacDill AFB, FL 33621-5323

****Important**** Include contact information: home & work e-mails, phone number, and mailing address.

For Electronic Submission

Microsoft Word file is required. If you think a graphic (e.g., drawing or photo) is necessary, attach it as a separate file and indicate in the text where you would like the image placed. The preferred image file is an original (high quality) .jpg, tif, .bmp, eps, or .png. The publishing standard for images is 300 dots per inch as that allows for resizing without affecting image quality. Poor-quality images will not be used for publication. For images that are not your own, include the source, fair use policy, or the written permission to use if copyrighted. Persons submitting essays consent to their work being edited and published by JSOU and the NDIA.

Contacts

For additional information, please contact:

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