



# COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE ETHICS SYMPOSIUM ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS



March 25, 2019

**Organizers:** The United States Army Command and General Staff College, Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and the CGSC Foundation, Inc. will co-host a symposium entitled:

## ***“Ethical Implications of Large Scale Combat Operations”***

Recent history and global politics has seen the possibility of major nation state conflicts escalate. In response, FM 3.0 now focuses on Large Scale Combat Operations (LSCO). We must begin the challenging process of thinking deeply and critically about the ethical implications and concerns of such operations.

**Proposed Program:** With this in mind, we are issuing a call for unpublished papers for the symposium. We invite authors to submit their papers for consideration. Selected presenters will be asked to facilitate lively discussions about their work. Please consider the ethical aspects of the topics below and submit an abstract that includes a narrowed topic with a clear thesis statement and brief outline of the topic you intend to write about. This will be an unclassified symposium. Below are a sample of possible topics of interest:

### **Ethical considerations and ramifications of LSCO**

- What are some pertinent ethical precedents from past conflicts still relevant to future operations?
- Does fighting in densely-populated urban terrain substantially change the ethicality of LSCO?
- Do the Geneva Convention protocols need to be updated for future warfare?
- What are the ethical considerations around territory and ownership in large scale conflict?
- How might we see changes in ethical behavior during LSCO as engagement areas more likely resemble Paris, Seoul, London, New York, Beijing, New Delhi, or Moscow?
- Beyond civilian casualties, what are other ethical concerns for LSCO in such an environment?
- What responsibility do we have to preserve cultural / historical sites amidst LSCO?

### **The Ethical Effects of Transhumanism and Autonomous AI on LSCO**

- Will autonomous weaponry diminish the military’s Warrior Ethos?
- Does the ability to alter humans genetically introduce any genuinely new ethical concerns?
- What are the ethical implications of the rise of AI and the marginalization of humans?
- What is the role of human interface if, or when, AI is given authorization to kill?
- Is humanity itself the weakest ethical link in LSCO?

### **When Things Go Wrong: Genocide, War Crimes, and Other Atrocities**

- When did things start to go wrong ethically in historic cases of genocide, war crimes, or other atrocities?
- Can we wage existential warfare without foundational principles and truths?
- Does dehumanization have a necessary place in warfare?
- Should the army demoralize an enemy force by weaponizing information against their families?

- Should our ethical standards change in the face of an existential threat?

**Military, Academic and Professional Scholarship:** The Command and General Staff College and the Command and General Staff College Foundation strive to facilitate lasting relationships among the military and civilian academic communities. To accomplish this goal, we invite military, academic, and professional personnel to participate in this year's symposium. This allows us to build a community of expertise that includes both military and non-military thinkers.

**For additional information or to send abstracts, contact the conference coordinator:**

**Chaplain (MAJ) Jonathan Bailey**  
**jonathan.d.bailey.mil@mail.mil**  
**913-684-3270**

**Abstracts should be 300-400 words**  
**Deadline for abstracts: January 3, 2018**  
**Notification of abstract selection: January 30, 2019**  
**Final papers should be 2000-3500**  
**Deadline for final papers: March 19, 2019**  
**Symposium Event: March 25, 2019**

**The Command and General Staff College and the CGSC Foundation, Inc. will publish selected papers.**