

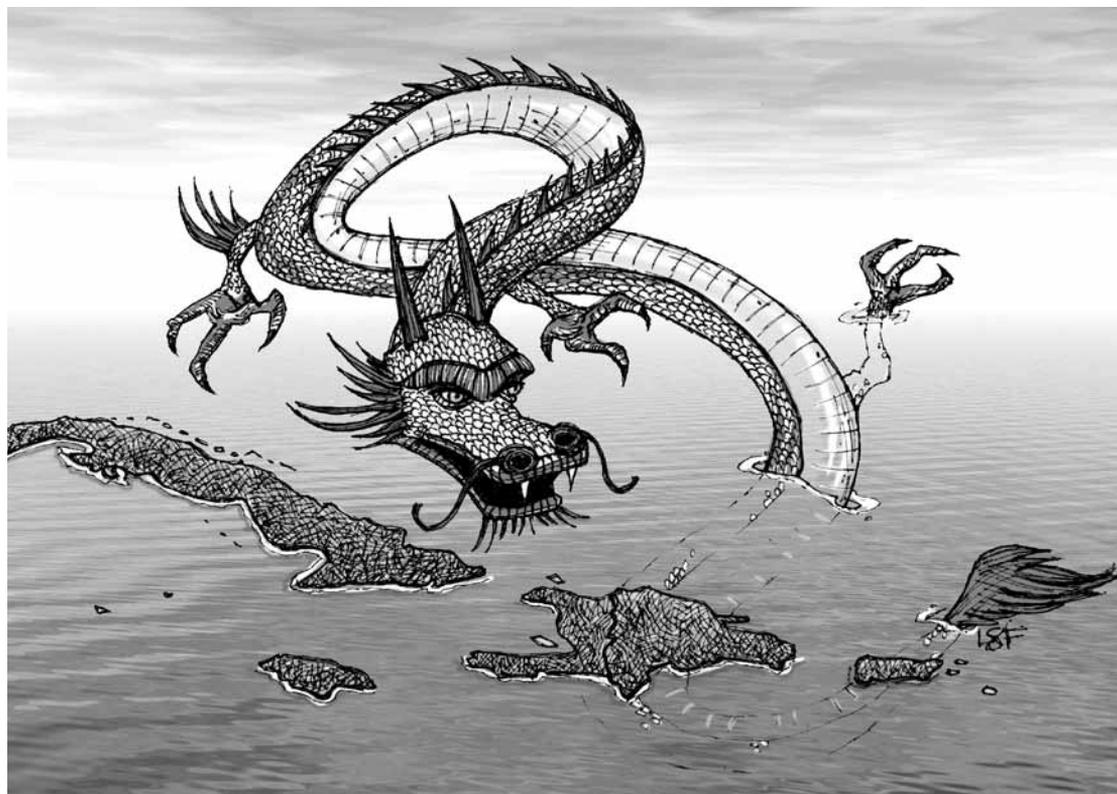
# *Hic Sunt Dracones* (Here Be Dragons)

Lt Col Michael S. Tate, USAF, Chief, Professional Journals

**D**ating back to medieval times, the expression *Hic Sunt Dracones*, or one like it, adorned ancient maps and charts that marked unexplored territory. Fantastic, dreadful creatures such as serpents with wings symbolized the mysterious vastness lying beyond familiar, commonly traveled areas. Inadequate transportation, superstition, fear, or complacency prevented ventures into those regions so creatively adorned on maps of the day. As

better vessels and circumstances expanded their capabilities, however, explorers gained the confidence necessary to step boldly and courageously beyond the known, comfortable world and take on the dragons of nameless lands. The United States Air Force has followed a similar path, as has its professional journal.

Sixty-four years ago, Maj Gen Muir S. Fairchild, then the commanding general of Air University, issued a memorandum es-





tablishing a professional publication devoted to the advancement of airpower. This grand endeavor, appropriately titled the *Air University Quarterly Review*, created a vehicle that allowed professional Airmen to make significant contributions to scholarly thought concerning the exploitation of airpower and the development of forces dedicated to this pursuit. Since that time, the Air Force's professional journal has appeared under various other titles: *Air University Review*, *Airpower Journal*, *Aerospace Power Journal*, and, currently, *Air and Space Power Journal (ASPJ)*. Today's *Journal*—published in six languages—boasts a worldwide reach, each edition tailored for regional audiences in over 150 countries and 40 territories. Simply stated, *ASPJ* has consistently pushed into the unknown, vanquishing dragons and then redrawing the map that represents the landscape of professional debate among Airmen.

As our leadership has taught us and history has confirmed, change is inevitable. It is time for the Air Force's professional journal to embrace the innovative spirit of those early leaders and commit itself to advancing further into the technological realm. Just as explorers contemplated sailing beyond the edge of the chart or as test pilots and engineers prepared to push the limits of flight, so has *ASPJ* arrived at such a moment in its history. After 64 years of traveling and exploring the known world of traditional publishing, the *Journal* now faces the dragon of the cyber frontier. Though not altogether strange, that realm represents a substantial departure from the familiar domain that *ASPJ* has inhabited.

Although the *Journal* has maintained an online presence for several years, in many ways the print version defined the limits of its electronic counterpart. Thus, transitioning to an online-only publication fundamentally alters our presentation. No longer shackled by the limitations of hard copy, *ASPJ* will soon be available on readers' PCs, tablets, Kindles, or smartphones. Financial constraints that bound our award-winning artists to black-and-white illustrations and

our printing specialists to finite page counts no longer apply. In 2012, following this—our last—printed issue, we will introduce an innovative electronic format featuring several timely, novel subject-matter categories along with changes to our publication schedule. We believe that our entry into this brave new world is all to the good.

This final hard-copy edition includes senior leaders' views on measuring success and inspiring innovation. Additionally, articles that offer an intriguing look at the autonomy of remotely piloted aircraft; varying approaches to intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; targeting in cyberspace; and advanced academic degrees are sure to spark discussion. This issue also reprints the first feature article to appear in the inaugural number of *Air University Quarterly Review* (Spring 1947), a piece which presciently set the course that airpower has followed ever since. We believe that it is fitting to include Colonel Glantzberg's article as we reach the end of this chapter in the *Journal's* history.

Accompanying that ending, however, is a beginning. General Fairchild's vision for this publication's mission, as articulated in the editorial of that first issue of *Air University Quarterly Review*, has not changed:

This journal of Air Power will not be just another news-magazine. . . . Rather, it will be a professional publication in the highest sense of the word and will reflect not only the high scholastic standards and educational accomplishments of the Air University, but also—and more important, perhaps—the best professional thought concerning global concepts and doctrines of air strategy and tactics.

We will continue to discharge this mandate by publishing scholarly, thought-provoking articles relevant to airpower. Only the method of delivery will change. Advances in technology and the operational environment now enable us, the *ASPJ* staff, to cross the boundary into the uncharted landscape of the future.

*Hic Sunt Dracones.* 🐉