It is a pleasure to write a few words of introduction to the first book of collected essays from the War Studies program at Royal Military College (RMC). The masters of arts degree in war studies was established nearly thirty years ago. It quickly established a reputation as a high-quality program. Yet for most of that time it had modest enrolments and was open only to full-time graduate students attending RMC. There seemed neither the resources nor the interest by defence authorities outside the college to invest in it. Unless one was fortunate enough to be in residence at RMC, most personnel had little access to it, a situation that was exacerbated by the demands of professional military life.

All of that changed in the early 1990s. In the confusing and dangerous post-Cold War world the need to provide continuous and higher learning without interrupting a normal military career was more and more evident. The RMC War Studies degree program responded by creating distance-learning centres wherever there was a critical mass of student interest. Part-time graduate courses in war studies were started in a variety of military centres. At the time of writing there are over 250 Armed Forces personnel studying for this master’s degree.

And the quality of the program has remained high indeed. The following papers, written mostly by the students in the distance learning courses, are testimonial to that fact. This volume is meant to give expression to the quality of scholarship of Canadian Forces students and to provide for their comrades-in-arms an important tool in their professional development.

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