



# Army Mad Scientist Back to the Future Writing Contest Submissions due **13 January 2023**



## SUGGESTED TOPICS:

- We often hear the phrase, “*History Repeats Itself.*” While this idea is questionable, our perceived history definitely shapes our mental models about future possibilities. ***How can history inform us about the future of competition and conflict?***

### Points to Consider:

[“Once More unto The Breach Dear Friends”: From English Longbows to Azerbaijani Drones, Army Modernization STILL Means More than Materiel](#)  
[Lessons from the Cold War: “The Ugly American” and Multi-Domain Operations](#)  
[Why the Next “Cuban Missile Crisis” Might Not End Well: Cyberwar and Nuclear Crisis Management](#)  
[Jomini’s Revenge: Mass Strikes Back!](#)  
[Damnatio Memoriae through AI](#)  
[Making the Future More Personal: The Oft-Forgotten Human Driver in Future’s Analysis](#)

- The convergence of horses, stirrups, and armor provided warriors with mobility and shock, enabling heavy cavalry to dominate the battlefield in the 4<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Centuries AD. Similarly, the technological convergence of the internal combustion engine, hardened steel, caterpillar tracks, breech loading cannon, and radio communications revitalized the concept of heavy cavalry, enabling mechanized force mobility and firepower to dominate land warfare for the past century. ***How could the convergence of new, emergent technologies similarly revitalize past warfighting concepts to change the character of warfare? What new Soldier Knowledges, Skills, and Behaviors will be required to execute these concepts?***

### Points to Consider:

[Speed, Scope, and Convergence Trends](#)  
[Strategic Latency Unleashed!](#)  
[Table of Future Technologies: A 360 Degree View Based on Anticipated Availability](#)  
[Estimation of Technological Convergence by 2035](#)  
[The Convergence: The Next Ten Years of Tech with Eli Dourado](#) and associated [podcast](#)  
[Ground Warfare in 2050: How It Might Look](#)  
[Potential Game Changers](#) handout

- Our perceived history shapes our mental models and can be the source of blind spots and biases. The Mad Sci community often asks ourselves where a divergence from our past experiences might create a disadvantage or surprise. ***How could our future be different than our past experiences and what are the potential surprises or disadvantages?***

### Points to Consider:

[In Medias Res](#)  
[Bias, Behavior, and Baseball with Keith Law](#) and associated [podcast](#)  
[The Case for Restructuring the Department of Defense to Fight in the 21st Century](#)  
[Weighing Effort in the Future Strategic Environment 2028-2035](#)  
[The Classified Mind – The Cyber Pearl Harbor of 2034](#)  
[An Appropriate Level of Trust...](#)

- All entries due by 11:59 pm Eastern on January 13, 2023
- Two submission types: 1500-word essay and twitter @ArmyMadSci using #MadSciBacktotheFuture
- Anyone can participate. Multiple submissions are encouraged!
- Contest Winners will be proclaimed an official Mad Scientist and published at the *Mad Scientist Laboratory*.
- Looking for additional ideas? Explore the Mad Scientist Laboratory at: <https://madsciblog.tradoc.army.mil>
- Questions? Email us at: [madscitradoc@gmail.com](mailto:madscitradoc@gmail.com)