

Contributors

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Acknowledgments

The *Index of U.S. Military Strength* is truly a team effort. This edition includes the work of 20 authors, an amazing research editor, two extraordinarily talented graphics specialists, designers and marketing specialists and web-design/digital content experts, and a handful of very bright interns—Conner Bolanos, Jackson Clark, Aaron Eudaimon, and Grace Hermanson—who assisted with the research and tabulation of budget and acquisition data that make the service capability tables possible. But among the members of this team, there are a few special contributors who go the extra mile and make the *Index* a remarkable and uniquely special undertaking.

James Di Pane, Policy Analyst in the Center for National Defense, extended his winning streak in shepherding production of the *2023 Index of U.S. Military Strength*. He worked with everyone involved to make this *Index* a reality, both in print and on the web.

Senior Editor William T. Poole is a force of nature in the world of editing, each year using his ability to maintain a consistent tone, impeccable accuracy, and a fresh approach to conveying essential information throughout this multi-author document to enhance the excellent work produced by our authors. Data Graphics Services Manager John Fleming continued his impressive work in giving visual life to text and statistics to convey a message with maximum impact, working with the authors to explore more creative ways to convey important information. Research Editor and Paper Production Specialist Kathleen Scaturro again used her proofreading skills to ensure a high-quality final product. Graphic Designer Grace DeSandro created the cover image for this year's *Index*. Senior Designer and Web Developer, Research Projects, Jay Simon and Senior Digital Strategist Augusta Cassada Irvine ensured that the presentation of *Index* materials was tuned

to account for changes in content delivery as our world becomes increasingly digital, portable, and driven by social media, and the guidance and coordination provided by Director of Research Editors Therese Pennefather ensured the creation of a cohesive finished product.

We believe that this *Index* helps to provide a better-informed understanding and wider appreciation of America's ability to "provide for the common defence"—an ability that undergirds The Heritage Foundation's vision of "an America where freedom, opportunity, prosperity, and civil society flourish." The *Index* continues to be cited and referenced across government—by Congress, the executive branch, and officials within the Department of Defense and supporting government agencies—as well as the media, academia, and policy institutes and among the public. We remain encouraged that so many Americans are similarly concerned about the state of affairs in and the multitude of factors affecting our country.

The Heritage Foundation seeks a better life for Americans, and this requires a strong economy, a strong society, and a strong defense. To help measure the state of the economy, Heritage publishes the annual *Index of Economic Freedom*; to help guide Congress in its constitutional exercise of the power of the purse, Heritage scholars analyze federal spending across all sectors of the economy and put forward recommendations throughout the year that, if implemented, would make Members of Congress better stewards of the taxes paid by all Americans; and to help Americans everywhere more fully understand the state of our defenses, our Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy is publishing this ninth annual edition of the *Index of U.S. Military Strength*.

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Finally, as we do each year, The Heritage Foundation expresses its enduring appreciation to the members of the U.S. armed forces who continue to protect the liberty of the American people in an ever more challenging world.