

# Contributors

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Any views presented in or reflecting the results of any prepublication review of this document by an officer or employee of the United States government are rendered in his or her individual capacity and do not necessarily represent the views of the United States government or any agency thereof.

# Acknowledgments

Though it can seem a perfunctory statement, the *Index of U.S. Military Strength* truly is a team effort. This edition includes the work of 19 authors, an amazing research editor, two extraordinarily talented graphics specialists, designers and marketing specialists and web-design/digital content experts, and a very talented group of interns—Wyatt Eichholz, Jonathan Harman, Jenna Swiney, and Isaac Tang—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 consistently go the extra mile to make the *Index* a very special undertaking.

With the 2024 edition, James Di Pane, Policy Analyst in the Center for National Defense, has been responsible for shepherding the production of this *Index* for five years, working with the great many people involved in making this publication a reality, both in print and on the web. The effort begins mid-spring each year and doesn't end until the approved master file is sent to the printer in November. Even then there is the work involved in ensuring that the online version is ready for posting, print copies are distributed, and rollout events are coordinated and effectively executed. The production manager—in this case James Di Pane—is the go-to person charged with keeping track of all of this. It is quite a job.

Speaking of production management, the tenth edition of anything is quite a milestone, so it is very appropriate to note the substantial contributions of Brian Slattery and Rachel Zissimos who preceded James Di Pane in managing the *Index*. Brian perhaps had the more interesting experience as he was pivotal in figuring out the people, processes, timelines, and relationships needed to take our first edition from idea to book. Brian managed the 2015–2018 editions. Rachel picked up the final portions of

the 2018 edition and continued her excellent work through the 2019 *Index*. James has handled the editions from 2020.

Senior Editor William T. Poole continues to turn prose into poetry, ensuring that what the authors want to say is conveyed to the reader in clear, accurate, coherent form. Each year, he ensures consistent tone, impeccable accuracy, and a fresh approach to conveying essential information throughout this multi-author document. In a similar way, Data Graphics Services Manager John Fleming, ably assisted by Data Graphics Designer Luke Karnick, continued his always-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. Senior Graphic Designer Lydia Emrich created the cover image for this year's *Index*. Manager, Web Development and Print Production, 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. As with every previous edition, all of the professional editing, proofreading, and material integration into a final product occurred under the extraordinarily watchful eye of Director of Research Editors Therese Pennefather.

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. There is no other source where one can find information about the status of U.S. allies and partners, competitors and enemies, and America’s ability to defend itself and its interests compiled in one volume and in such an easily readable, concise, and fully documented format. We remain encouraged that so many Americans are concerned about the state of affairs in and the multitude of factors affecting our country and that they turn to Heritage’s *Index of U.S. Military Strength* to know more about these things.

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 tenth annual edition of the *Index of U.S. Military Strength*.

In addition to acknowledging all of those who helped to prepare this edition, very special recognition is due to the Heritage members and donors whose support continues to make the *Index of U.S. Military Strength* possible.

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.