



Mad Scientist Science Fiction Writing Contest 2019

DEADLINE 1 APRIL 2019

Background: The U.S. Army finds itself at a historical inflection point, where disparate, yet related elements of an increasingly complex Operational Environment (OE) are converging, creating a situation where fast moving trends are rapidly transforming the nature of all aspects of society and human life – including the character of warfare. It is important to take a creative approach to projecting and anticipating both transformational and enduring trends that will lend themselves to the depiction of the future. In this vein, the Army Mad Scientist Initiative is seeking your creativity and unique ideas to describe a battlefield that does not yet exist.

Task: Write about the following scenario – On March 17th, 2030, the country of Donovia, after months of strained relations and covert hostilities, invades neighboring country Otso. Donovia is a wealthy nation that is a near-peer competitor to the United States. Like the United States, Donovia has invested heavily in disruptive technologies such as robotics, AI, autonomy, quantum information sciences, bio enhancements and gene editing, space-based weapons and communications, drones, nanotechnology, and directed energy weapons. The United States is a close ally of Otso and is compelled to intervene due to treaty obligations and historical ties. The United States is about to engage Donovia in its first battle with a near-peer competitor in over 80 years...

Three ways to approach:

- 1) *Forecasting* – Description of the timeline and events leading up to the battle.
- 2) *Describing* – Account of the battle while it's happening.
- 3) *Backcasting* – Retrospective look after the battle has ended (i.e., After Action Review or lessons learned).

Three questions to consider while writing (U.S., adversaries, and others):

- 1) What will forces and Soldiers look like in 2030?
- 2) What technologies will enable them or be prevalent on the battlefield?
- 3) What do Multi-Domain Operations look like in 2030?

Guidelines:

- No more than 5000 words
- .doc or .docx format
- Conventional formatting (e.g., no columns) and have images “in line” with text
- Submissions from Government and DoD employees must be cleared through their respective PAOs
- MUST include attached release form
- CANNOT have been previously published

Selected submissions may be chosen for publication or possible future speaking opportunity.

Contact: Send submissions to: usarmy.jble.tradoc.mbx.army-mad-scientist@mail.mil

**GENERAL RELEASE WHERE TALENT FEE OR OTHER REMUNERATION
OR RECOMPENSE ACCRUES TO THE PARTICIPANT**

The United States Government has requested that I grant, release, and discharge certain rights arising from my participation, or the participation of an infant or minor child for whom I exercise custody, in a video or audio recording or presentation entitled:

" _____ ";

PIN _____ or PAN _____ which is being made by or produced for the United States Government.

This grant, release, and discharge of said rights to the United States Government is made in full cognizance of the risks inherent in the operational techniques employed in the production, including, but not limited to, the focusing of lights upon me or the infant or minor child; and in contemplation of the reliance of the United States Government upon the rights herein granted and released.

In consideration of the talent fee or other remuneration or recompense and without expectation of any further compensation of any kind, I hereby grant and release to the United States Government the following rights:

a. To use my name, or that of said infant or minor child, in any manner; photographs, likenesses, acts, poses, plays, and appearances made in connection with the said production, to record, reproduce, amplify, simulate, filter or otherwise distort my voice or the child's voice, and all instrumental, musical, and other sound effects produced by me or by the child; and to reproduce, duplicate, publish, exhibit, use or transmit the same or any parts thereof, by any means, in any manner and for any purpose whatsoever; and to do the same perpetually.

b. To "double" or "dub" my voice, acts, poses, plays, and appearances, or those of the infant or minor child, and all instrumental, musical and/or other sound effects produced by me or the said infant or minor child to such extent as may be desired by the United States Government.

I release and discharge the United States Government from any cause of action arising from my participation or the participation of the infant or minor child in the production.

This grant, release, and discharge shall inure to the benefit of the United States Government, and its officers, agents, servants, and employees when acting in their official capacities; and to persons, firms or corporations contracting with the United States Government, and their heirs, executors, administrators, successors, or assigns; and to any other persons lawfully reproducing, distributing, exhibiting, or otherwise using the said production or any portion thereof.

The person or persons granting and releasing the rights set forth above are as follows:

1. TALENT

a. TYPED OR PRINTED NAME <i>(Last, First, Middle Initial)</i>	b. SIGNATURE <i>(If under 18 years of age, parent or guardian must sign below.)</i>	c. DATE (YYYYMMDD)
---	---	--------------------

2. PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN *(Complete if talent is under 18 years of age.)*

a. TYPED OR PRINTED NAME <i>(Last, First, Middle Initial)</i>	b. SIGNATURE	c. DATE (YYYYMMDD)
---	--------------	--------------------

3. WITNESS

a. TYPED OR PRINTED NAME <i>(Last, First, Middle Initial)</i>	b. SIGNATURE	c. DATE (YYYYMMDD)
---	--------------	--------------------