



JFQ FORUM:

# Standing Up Coalitions

**S**ince the end of the Persian Gulf War—if not the Cold War—coalition warfare has become a catchword. Pundits and practitioners alike support the notion of harnessing multinational forces to respond to regional contingencies. But few have clearly outlined the terms of coalition warfare, and detailed doctrine has yet to be articulated. The four articles which comprise *JFQ Forum* do not proffer a ready-made formula for conducting coalition war, but they do provide a basis for mulling a wide range of issues on joint and combined task forces at the strategic, operational, and tactical levels.

The first article reminds us that coalitions often lead decision-makers to lose sight of national interests and enlarge military missions; it also spells out guidelines for balancing the advantages of combined versus unilateral control of forces. The second suggests ways to minimize the existing tensions between U.S. and U.N. military culture. Then a third article reviews some of the salient aspects of forming joint and combined task forces. And a final piece rehearses recognized principles for planning and executing coalition warfare that may benefit future coalition commanders.