

# Editorial

Brigadier-General Julien Sabéné

*Vortex*: this both sharp and original title refers to more than just a physical phenomenon.

The term “vortex” commonly alludes to the swirling motion that airplanes leave in their trail, which is very difficult to scientifically conceptualize. We use it here as a metaphor for ever-evolving thought processes and passionate discussions. Once the effervescence has passed, air masses cease their disordered motion allowing stillness to return. Likewise, debates are appeased when they are settled by the honest yet fruitful confrontation of ideas.

This is this journal’s ambition: promoting the *urbi* and *orbi* exchanges on the political, strategic and operational aspects of aerospace power, a power that has succeeded in establishing itself, in little over a century, as one of the structuring elements of modern wars and crises.

The French Centre for Strategic Aerospace Studies (*CESA*) is redefining its missions to meet the French Air and Space Force’s new ambitions in terms of outreach, under the leadership of General Philippe Lavigne. *Vortex* intends to raise airmen’s contribution in terms of national and international reflection to the level of their high operational commitment, hence the decision to publish this bi-annual journal in both English and French.

Available in hard copy and online on the *CESA* website, *Vortex* aspires to gather wordsmiths from the aerospace community, whatever their nationality, to express themselves in these columns and provide food for thought.

At a time where the world has never produced so much data, in which it is becoming increasingly difficult to distinguish the prescriber from the dispenser in the media and where news stories are released at a frenetic pace, *Vortex* aims to become a place where thought can develop freely and serenely.

As a conclusion, I would like to wish Jean-Christophe Noël every success: he is the instigator of this journal, which is now launched thanks to his remarkable commitment and the motivated team surrounding him. May they all be warmly thanked.