



2019 UNG'S ILSS MILITARY SCIENCE FICTION STORY CONTEST



**WHEN CORPSES OF
NANOBOTS TURN YOUR
BLOOD TO SLUDGE, THE
ONLY WEAPON YOU
HAVE IS A CRUSHED
PLASMA LAUNCHER
TURNED \$75,000
PAPERWEIGHT, AND
YOUR EXOSKELETON
BECOMES NOTHING
MORE THAN A COLD TIN
CAN COCOON, YOU ARE
GOING TO WISH YOU
HAD REMEMBERED TO
ACTIVATE THAT EMP
SHIELD. DON'T FORGET
YOUR PRE-COMBAT
CHECKS!**



The University of North Georgia's Institute for Leadership and Strategic Studies, in conjunction with ILSS's annual Symposium, is holding a Military Science Fiction story contest. The contest theme ties with this year's Symposium theme: the Soldier of the Future. In accord with the ILSS mission, the contest focus is on junior leadership/preparing junior leaders/pre-commissioning education, with a Ranger lieutenant taking a central role. Preference will be given to submissions from current or past members of the Department of Defense (military and civilian) and the Intelligence Community.

Judges:

Dr. Arlan Andrews, Sr.,
Dr. Sharon Hamilton,
and members of SIGMA, the
science fiction think tank

How to enter:

Submit 1 manuscript per author to ungpress@ung.edu. Subject line must read ***Science Fiction Contest Submission***

Writers of the winning story and three runners-up stories will receive:

Winner:

- \$500 cash prize
- publication in UNG Press ILSS Symposium Monograph and one print copy

Runners-up

- \$100 cash prize apiece
- publication in UNG Press ILSS Symposium Monograph and one print copy

**Submissions
are open
from May 15
to
September
30, 2019**



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THE MILITARY COLLEGE OF GEORGIA®

For details, go to our web site go.ung.edu/ilss-symposium.

Please see the back for Thematic and Contest Guidelines.



Thematic Guidelines:

Authors may use SOF of 20 years hence as the context, but Rangers are preferred over other “SOF Species.” Rogers’ Rangers, established in 1751, is the longest historical connection our military has with any type of military organization (save the Militia, now the Guard). Keeping this historical continuity with the American Ranger in mind, submitted stories should keep one foot in reality and the other deep into the future.

Stories should focus on a lieutenant infantry/combat unit platoon leader and their experiences. At minimum, the “platoon” needs to be mixed gender, like in Starship Troopers.

All reasonable future developments—technical, political, cultural—may be considered, for example:

Possible modifications to Chain of Command resulting from technological changes

- AI-assisted implants or wearables that can assess the immediate tactical situation and reassign ranks/responsibilities in real time
- Soldiers reporting to foreign nationals who may have different ethics, values, and/or equipment
- AI-based VR simulations that run through thousands of possible scenarios in a tactical situation in microseconds, using all digital resources, and then recommend a few for the soldier to think about
- Co-bots or companion bots that fight in front of or alongside humans, and the situations that arise from that, such as
- Is the target value worth the cost/skills of destroying the co-bot?
- Do co-bots answer to only one soldier, or can they be overridden by higher command for any reason

Real-time Rules of Engagement

- In fighting adversaries with zero limitations, can a human direct a co-bot to switch to, say, Al Qaeda norms, or PRC, or Russian?
- Can weapons deployment be overridden by higher command? The consequences?

There’s a strong interest in the individual Soldier and their leader as technology and modifications are made available to the regular Soldier

In addition to considering positive benefits of technologies, stories may weave in context from a previous experience where tech failures—like nanobots, exoskeletons, EMP, and viruses—left Soldiers helpless. Historical examples include:

The Battle of Kasserine Pass

The Battle of Cannae

Task Force Faith

Stories may use the new “Space Force” as a backdrop

For a different political and economic backdrop, stories may pose a “United States of the Americas” as a now-unified continental group by 2035+, but in great competition with an equally consolidated Asia (with exceptions) both in competition over Sub-Saharan African resources

Disruptive thought or ideas are welcomed. Think new tactics, new ROE, new and different adversaries and their tactics/technologies—and/or the disruptive elements of all of these.

Contest Guidelines

Contest submissions:

- Are open to all writers (inside and outside the US).
- Must be fiction only
- Must be original and unpublished. Authors retain sole rights to any works submitted
- Must be 4,000 words or less
- Must use acceptable file types: doc, dox, rtf, pdf
- Must use 8.5x11 page size, double-spaced throughout with 1-inch margins on top and bottom/1.25-inch margins on left and right sides
- Must use Arial, Courier, or Times font, 12 point font size
- Must be in the English language
- Winners and Runners-up will allow the UNG Press first publication rights, after which rights will revert back to the authors
- That promote hatred of any given race, religion, sex, or ethnicity will be disqualified