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From the Editor

Jerry W. Wilson

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From the Editor...

At the time of this writing, we have been at war with Iraq for one week. I am hopeful that the fighting will have ceased by the time you receive this issue of the *Journal*. The news coverage of the war—the most intense of any armed conflict in history—brings fresh examples daily of the importance of logistics and transportation to the successful implementation of a military campaign. I share this information with my students in the classroom as often as possible. The impact is immediate and noticeable. They are eager to find applications of classroom and textbook material in a series of events that are occurring in real time. I hope that they realize the tie between their freedom to be in my classroom and discuss these issues and the rising casualty count among coalition forces in Iraq.

In continuing with the theme of the last several issues of the *JTM*, variety defines this issue as well. The lead article in this issue, by Jatinder Chahal and Evelyn Thomchick, presents the results of a study assessing order status and track/trace systems in a set of high-technology firms. It appears from their work that the evolution of such systems is still very much under way in this country. The second article, by Richard Clarke, looks at significant changes that have taken place in surface freight transportation between the United States and Mexico since the signing of NAFTA. In the third article, John Kent, Stephen Parker, and Allen Schaefer report on a survey they conducted involving more than 2,000 shippers. The survey assessed shipper involvement in e-marketplaces and their utilization of trucking company web offerings. They were also asked to rank the importance of a number of web services offered by trucking companies. The fourth article, by Abdussalam Addus, Anwar Khan, and David Chen, analyzes logistics program offerings at historically black colleges and universities in the United States. They offer suggestions for expanding the number of such programs and increasing the availability of logistics-trained minority graduates. In the final article, Kathryn Ready, Drew Stapleton, Milorad Novicevic, and Tom Kuffel present a very unique analysis of the owner/operator sector of the U.S. motorcoach industry, following the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Some of their findings should have direct applicability in other sectors of the transportation industry as well.

Much effort went into each of these works, both by the authors and by the participating editorial board reviewers. I hope that you appreciate these efforts and enjoy the reading.

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