

Preface

This book deals with the processes, methods, and concepts that lie behind modern models of combat. It is intended for readers with at least a scientific bachelor's degree and some background in basic probability concepts. It includes three appendices that address general quantitative methods that are applied throughout the book. Appendix A is a review of probability concepts, which are involved in almost every chapter. A reader who has never studied probability before should consider reading this appendix, at least, before continuing. Appendices B and C are minimal introductions to the topics of optimization and Monte Carlo simulation.

Use will be made throughout this book of Microsoft Excel™ workbooks developed by the authors. Some of these workbooks include VBA (Visual Basic for Applications) code for certain functions or commands. The reader should obtain the zipped folder *CombatModeling1.zip* from the “downloads” link at the url <http://faculty.nps.edu/awashburn/> . After obtaining the folder, unzip it and read *Readme.txt* and *Errata1.txt*. As long as proper credit for authorship is given, the workbooks may be freely distributed. An email link for author Washburn will also be found at that url or substitute “mkress” for “awashburn” to reach author Kress.

Feedback will be appreciated. If you find an error, please point it out so we can incorporate it in the errata. If there are subsequent editions of this book, we will take advantage of your comments about organization and utility.

We hope you find our book useful.

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