



This issue of *ARMOR* almost certainly complies with a publishing rule we unabashedly borrowed years ago from an old-time New York tabloid writer. His contention was that readers would always come back for more if each day's paper contained at least three surprises — items or stories that made the reader scratch his head and say, "Hmmm...that's interesting. I didn't expect that..." In this issue, I think we've met that criterion.

First off, we know that the feature article, this month a history piece, *Commanding the Red Army's Sherman Tanks*, will surprise all of you in one way or another. Lots of people don't know, or have completely forgotten, that the Soviet Union used tens of thousands of Lend-Lease vehicles during WWII. Studebaker trucks earned a solid reputation with Soviet transport troops. But fewer recall that the Soviets used thousands of armored vehicles, 5,000 medium tanks alone. Huge formations, divisions and corps, were equipped with U.S. equipment. Due to the Cold War and the overwhelming control of information in Stalin's regime, this story was never told. Sure, a few pictures exist here and there, but a first person account, in English, has never appeared. But in recent years, a Hero of the Soviet Union, a retired colonel in the Soviet tank corps, wrote of his experiences, and we believe you will find the excerpt from this book, soon to be published by the University of Nebraska Press, fascinating. We are excited to be able to give you a look into this little known part of the war.

The second article I'm throwing onto the table as a likely surprise is about wheeled armored vehicles, and we aren't talking about Hummers, even the up-armored models, equipping the scouts or military police. The call for wheeled armor isn't a new one, but the author's perspective, that of a peacekeeper in Macedonia, has given him some interesting ideas. Whether you agree with him or not on the utility of wheeled armor, and in his choice of vehicle to fill the shortcom-

ings he observed, we believe you'll want to read this piece through. If you do believe that military operations other than war are going to remain in (or enter into) your unit's mission essential task list, you'll want to thoughtfully consider the ramifications of this article.

Third, and deeper into the magazine, you'll find two articles on command posts that should cause some discussions. I think it is a truism that each unit commander puts his own spin into any TOC/CP organization and configuration. Therefore, no article or series of articles will ever provide the solution to the riddle of what TOC configuration is the best for any unit in any situation. However, these articles will help advance the state of the art of TOC building by giving you some good ideas that were successful for others in similar situations.

One final surprise — I know it is four surprises not three, but we really want to impress you — shouldn't be a surprise, but it may be in too many cases. At the very least, you'll want to slap your forehead and say, "I knew that." Colonel (Ret.) Clarke, the Training Manager at the Royal Saudi Land Forces Armor Institute, has some interesting ideas on what he sees changing and what he sees remaining the same as the digital wave sweeps over us. He believes the tenets of good soldiering and good leading, which have survived other technological revolutions, will again survive this revolution. This article is worthy of your time and your discussion with a friend or two in the range tower, at the TOC, or in the club.

If we have managed to surprise you at least three times, that is good. Know that it is our goal, and with your continued writing and submissions, we will be able to continue meeting that standard.

— TAB

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

DENNIS J. REIMER  
General, United States Army  
Chief of Staff

Official:

JOEL B. HUDSON  
Acting Administrative Assistant to the  
Secretary of the Army

02046