

## Once More Unto the Breach

**Thoughts on the edge of the breach:** As this nation approaches the anniversary of 9-11, we can all be proud of how this nation responded to this horrific terrorist attack. We grieved, we mourned, we cried, and then we methodically sought justice. Our Armed Forces systematically, with a special thanks to our CIA field operatives and courageous Special Forces soldiers, destroyed the Taliban and sent the al-Qaeda network running like rats in a sewer. Our nation can be very proud of the men and women who turned this cowardly attack into a renaissance of national patriotism.

The winds of war are now blowing stronger in Southwest Asia, and if you listen to the various media pundits, you would think we will have a Desert Storm redux. It seems the media and all their experts have developed their own course of action based on past plans. WWII French General Maxime Weygand, wrote, "Often, indeed, after a successful war the victor has fallen asleep in a fallacious assurance of his superiority, while his opponent, striving to work out the causes of his defeat, struggles to recover from it. Hence, the victor of today, becomes the vanquished of tomorrow." I surmise he was thinking about the French victory over the Germans in WWI and correlating that with the devastating French defeat to Germany in 1940. I believe our military leaders are savvier than what the media portrays. Just as the world was surprised how quickly our military vanquished the Taliban, the pundits will again be surprised. Check your frequent flyer miles, because it looks as if some of us will be making a curtain call.

Despite the negative reports about the quality of our combat units and the lessons we don't seem to learn at the Combat Training Centers, we still have the finest leaders and soldiers, the most extensive training programs, and the best equipment in the world. I have no doubt, when and if called upon, our combined arms team will deliver the knockout blow, and they will do so with cavalry and tanks leading the charge.

Our cover this month depicts limited war verses total war. CPT Brian Brennan's examination provides historical analysis and examples of the difference between the two, and his conclusion offers debate on how we should approach, and to what extent we should fight future wars. I also hope you enjoy Jody Harmon's symbolic illustration on the front cover relating to this article.

In this edition, several of our articles will provide some sage advice on IPB, the S2 and ISR planning. There are times when we rely on the S2 to provide all the answers or shun the section all together, but that is a dangerous and lazy precedence on the part of the battalion staff as a whole and armor officers specifically. MAJ Kevin Jacobi writes on the importance of commanders to visualize the battlefield and to understand what components influence commanders' decisionmaking.

Trends from the NTC continue to support the fact that units are habitually underutilizing the S2 section in R&S operations and doing the IPB planning in a vacuum with little guidance from the commander, executive officer, or S3. I can remember 15 years ago when the same comments were being made at a task force AAR during my unit's rotation at the NTC.

Two additional articles will add some tools to your kit bag. One article, "The Cavalry Team: Scout-Tank Integration," provides some useful techniques for employing scouts and tanks into the hunter-killer mode. The other article, "Armor and Mechanized Infantry in Built-Up Areas," provides excellent TTP's for employing tanks in urbanized settings.

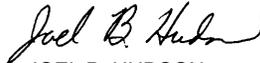
Well, time is getting short, and I want you to enjoy the edition. One final thought, keep the articles coming, I know we have some great thinkers and doers out in the field who would like to share their lessons learned and scholarly thoughts.

– DRM

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