Visions of Future Conflict Symposium

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became even more convinced that his determination not to "escalate wildly" or "retreat abjectly" was all that stood between orderly movement toward justice and descent into chaos.

While Johnson is the principal focu, Gardner also gracefully limns memorable portraits of the president's inner circle—most notably Secretary of State Dean Rusk, Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara and national security advisers Bundy and Walt Rostow. In the process, he has interesting things to say about the crisis management mentality and centralized control of Vietnam policy resulting from their collaboration.

Surprisingly inclined to agree with General William C. Westmoreland's and most military assessments of its baneful effect on the battlefield, Gardner takes his analysis further. Such a mind-set also caused those in the White House situation room to overlook the agency of actors in Hanoi and Saigon and to assume that everything was being managed from Washington, Moscow and perhaps Beijing. Additionally, this led the "best and the brightest" to doubt the capacity and discipline of average Americans to grasp the high Cold War stakes involved and "pay any price" to win. This ultimately had far more disastrous consequences than the selection of bombing targets by the president and his men at their weekly Tuesday luncheons.

Gardner's attack on "Tet revisionism"—the argument that the US media pulled a communist victory from the bloody jaws of the Vietcong's defeat in their convulsive offensive of early 1968—should also set readers to thinking. Gardner's verdict is that Tet proved conclusively that 500,000 Americans could not win, that aerial bombing could not interdict the enemy's supplies and that the costs of continuing, to say nothing of escalating, were prohibitive.

These three books permit us to endlessly multiply the paradoxes, inconsistencies and misperceptions that dogged US Vietnam policy. What stands out in all these books is what Senator J. William Fulbright termed the "arrogance of power." Presumptions of undifferentiated US interests and unlimited means to pursue them illustrate this. Yet, it is difficult to escape the conclusion that the greatest US political intelligence failure in Vietnam lay not in military and political overextension but in absolute certainty and unexamined belief.

NOTES
4. Ibid., 620-90.
5. Ibid., 201-12.
7. Ibid., 40-44.
8. Ibid., 533-36.
The advanced sciences, when viewed as part of RPMA, will lead to a postmodern civilization. Those who see the advanced sciences as only as part of the RMA merely see the leading edge of modern civilization and thus live in the past.

Thinking of newly emerging technologies as “force multipliers” reflects a commitment to the past. New technologies should be seen as entirely new forms of military power that are shaping RPMA contours in some extraordinary and fundamental ways.

Nonlethal force’s operational definition is “force intended to degrade or impede an opponent’s performance by any means short of lethal force.”

Implicit planning for the use of nonlethal force is the concept of a force continuum, which begins with passive nonlethal methods and escalates to lethal force, with no artificial separation between lethal and nonlethal. Essential to this concept is a flexible continuum of rules of engagement that are direct and simple in explanation and execution.

Biomorphic robots and other robotic systems represent emerging “machine soldiers,” initially to be used as sentries and armed guards and in mine clearing, but later as cheap as sentries and armed guards and in mine clearing, but later as cheap “hunter-killers” systems that function like crawling land mines.

Three types of unmanned ground vehicles (UGVs) exist: tele-operated, autonomous and semi-autonomous. Experts predict that sometime in the 21st century, intelligent autonomous UGVs—essentially robots—will exist.

Advanced military technology and the nonstate soldier will bring such massive change to the future battlefield that an RPMA will result. Such a revolution has not been witnessed since the European Renaissance, when the nation-state superseded the feudal-state as the basis of Western political organization.

A technically advanced form of “dual-dimensional” battle space is emerging, based on the concepts of human space and cyberspace. Advanced military forces—such as advanced stealth platforms, snipers and terrorists—will use the defensive advantages cyberspace provides to protect themselves from precision strikes.

The symposium also presented a variety of technical test report results, as well as testing, modeling and simulation highlights. TECOM supports the warfighter by linking test sites to training and also providing better simulation methods and physics models while it improves the role of testing and simulation in the acquisition process.

**Editor’s Note:** For symposium highlights, call Bob McDaniel, TRI-S Inc., at (410) 273-9414 or fax (410) 273-7470, or E-mail: http://www.pec.army.mil/—tecom/index.html.

**IXth Annual Latin American Editors’ Conference**

Buenos Aires, Argentina, was the site of the IX Latin American Editors’ Conference, held 24 to 28 June 1996. Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations Brigadier General Ricardo G. Brinzoni hosted the conference in the Cerculo Militar, a turn-of-the-century urban palace now home to the Argentine Army Officers’ Association. Near the statue Malvinas monument, and in the shadow of the statue to national hero General José de San Martín, delegates presented views on “military culture,” the conference theme.

Delegates of the following countries included: Colonel (COL) Juan Carlos Mañé, Argentina; Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Tomás Peña y Lillo Tellería, Bolivia; COL Luis Paulolo Macedo Carvalho and LTC Joao Tranquillo Beraldo, Brazil; COL Juan M. Fuente-Alba Poblete, Chile; COL Gustavo Mantilla Ortiz, Colombia; Major Ivan Borja Carrera and Major Carlos L. Gutierrez Alvarez, Ecuador; COL Alejandro J. Monterrosa Amaya, El Salvador; COL Edgar Otto Samayoa Calderón, Guatemala; LTC Mario Villanueva Reyes, Honduras; COL Carlos Alberto Ovando Carvalho, Paraguay; Brigadier General (BG) Daniel Mora Zevallos, Peru; COL Manuel C. Teixeira Do Rio Carvalho, Portugal; BG Carmelo Madrino Salto, Spain; COL Richard M. Bridges and LTC George L. Humphries, United States; and COL Sergio Caba, Uruguay.

The conference’s formal symposia occupied a proportion of each day’s activities. The program included a visit to the Argentine army’s general staff headquarters, where the delegation was received by Argentine Army Deputy Chief of Staff Major General Raúl Julio Gomez Sabarama. Major General Aníbal Laillo, Director of the Army General Staff, led an intense discussion of current challenges facing the Argentine armed forces. The conference coordinator, Colonel Juan Carlos Mañé, ensured that delegates also had the opportunity to visit the Argentine military academy and other points of interest in Buenos Aires and the surrounding region.

Argentine Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Martín Antonio Balza delivered the keynote address at the close of the conference. Individual presentations by conference delegates outlined a remarkable similarity in concern and outlook on subjects such as human rights, narcotics trafficking, budget and accountability, the integration of military to civilian authority in democracy, the military as part of society, the preservation of core military values in the face of rapid technological and social changes, communicating with the public and maintaining public support of the military, education and leader development and participation in peacekeeping and other internationally sponsored operations. Stewardship of the environment also emerged as an important issue for some participants.

Over the past few years, Department of the Army funding for *Military Review* in Spanish and Portuguese has become increasingly competitive. Based on the commonality of views surfaced by the conference delegates on subjects of multinational concern, the money for the *Military Review* Ibero-American editions has been very well spent, indeed.

The significance of *Military Review* in Spanish and Portuguese cannot be overemphasized. Each country frequently uses articles from *Military Review* in its own military magazine editions. *Military Review* is a consistent informational and educational source for these country’s officer corps. Distribution of their magazines is about one per officer, which demonstrates a desire for the widest dissemination possible. *Military Review* is highly respected among the editors and is a continuous source of US Army doctrine-based material. The several editions of the magazine enjoy