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Digital Battlefield Conference

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journals must be truly insignificant, yet they yield such a high return. Journals are literally an investment in the future of our most important resource—leaders. Equipment wears out. Well-trained and educated leaders do not. Not many budgetary outlays can make such a claim.

Who makes these kinds of decisions and, more important, who fights to keep the institutions that have served us so well for so long? Thank you for publishing this letter. I just ask one thing—don't let *Military Review* become a quarterly publication!

LTC Guy C. Swan III, USA,
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Editor's Note—Thank you for your vote of confidence and support for Military Review. Unfortunately, your summation is correct that the change from monthly to bimonthly publication is the result of "downsizing." After a consistent reduction in our professional staff size over the last five years, Military Review could not cut the production staff further and still provide a quality product. There is little danger, however, of going to quarterly publication because the cost savings would be insignificant.

Amazed at My Lai Letter

I am amazed at Captain Lawrence P. Rockwood's generalizations and personal audacity in his letter to the editor (December 1994–January/February 1995 *Military Review*). His presumed intellectual assault on Lieutenant Colonel Jeffrey F. Addicott and Major Andrew M. Warner's article, "Promoting the Rule of Law and Human Rights," (August 1994), totally misses their presentation's point and content.

Comparing Charlie Company soldiers at My Lai with current or previous soldiers serving world-

wide in myriad difficult circumstances does disservice to those who wear the US military uniform and to the historical reality of an event that was indeed a day of infamy in our 220-year history. One need not dwell on My Lai at the expense of the countless honorable actions and sacrifices made by Army men and women during the Vietnam War and other combat operations.

Rockwood seems beset on his perception of reality, that if it does not match his ethical criteria, it must be wrong. One sufficient example is when he took it upon himself to investigate human rights' violations in a Haitian prison. This act violated his duty responsibilities and was contrary to the good order and discipline required in a military unit.

I doubt Rockwood clearly understands the aftermath of the My Lai tragedy, as he was not in the service then. The law of war may not be taught with the depth and intensity Rockwood would like, but the reality is that it is taught in every study course throughout the Army educational system through the ethics training students receive. The law of war is also embodied in the Army ethic—loyalty, integrity, duty and selfless service. And a soldier who promotes the ethic found in US Army Field Manual 22–100, *Military Leadership*, will not recreate a similar My Lai situation.

We should not memorialize those dark hours of misdeeds committed by a few Army members. We should certainly remember, but more important, we should magnify and call attention to the Army's most honorable hours, splendidly proved by the unrelenting pursuit of excellence by hundreds of thousands of dedicated and consummate soldiers during the Gulf War.

If Rockwood desires to relive the Army's misery, I really wonder which profession he is trying to

enhance. The Army has changed much over the last 27 years, especially in revitalizing law of war principles. Operation *Desert Storm* was the positive model for the treatment of prisoners, detainees and refugees. Army personnel were highly regarded by the American media for their patience, tact, professionalism and determination to preserve the lives and dignity of adversarial forces. If there is not a significant difference between My Lai and Kuwait, where has Rockwood been the last 27 years?

LTC Joseph L. Allred, USA, Professor of Military Science, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah

Digital Battlefield Conference

I attended the Technical Marketing Society of America's *Digital Battlefield* conference held 10 to 11 April 1995 in Los Angeles. The conference show-cased the dynamic, high-technology arena that will receive \$7.9 billion in funding over the next five years as the Department of Defense (DOD) begins battlefield digitization implementation. The US Army is a leader in this area with its far-sighted plan to fully digitize a brigade by 1997.

The conference focused on critical 21st-century digital battlefield technologies and was attended by over 100 industry, government and military representatives. Top Army experts taking part in this conference were Major General William Campbell, program executive officer for Command and Control (C²) Systems; John Shipp, director for Information Systems for Command, Control, Communications and Computers; Colonel William Langford, Army Digitization Office; Colonel James Barbara, Armored Systems Modernization; Lieutenant Colonel W. Montague Winfield, Army Armor Center; Jim Touhill, US Army Training

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path. Better products may reduce French defense costs while increasing individual weapon and equipment quality.

How effective the *White Paper* plan will be may depend on whether any middle power such as France can independently safeguard its own vital interests and articulate a coherent defense policy implementation. The predictable obsolescence of French nuclear and conventional forces requires an extensive force modernization program to avoid a relative decline in

France's disposable power. The *White Paper* recognizes this potentiality. Its recommendations seek to avoid a negative outcome that would affect French prestige and political standing—issues that count highly among the French public.² *MR*

NOTES

1. *International Herald Tribune*, 2 September 1994.
2. Alan Ned Sabrosky "France," *The Defense of Nations*, 2d edition., edited by Douglas J. Murray and Paul R. Viotti (Baltimore, MD: John Hopkins University Press, 1989), 253–54.

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and Doctrine Command headquarters; and Lieutenant Colonel Steven Kostek, program executive officer for Intelligence and Electronic Warfare. Industry and government experts also made technical presentations.

A distinguished panel of experts discussed such digitization topics as integrating C² systems, future plans and operations, Force XXI technology, Joint Force XXI ventures, Army enterprise implementation, armored system modernization, information electronic warfare and the Longbow Apache.

Key points raised by conference participants were:

- The digital battlefield harnesses computer power to enhance combat power. This battlefield will field fast, lethal and semiautonomous units and combat systems. It is an Army imperative to dominate the future battlefield.
- Force XXI is a bold venture based on internally driven Army institutional change. The experimental force working group is an integral aspect of this process because of its guidance mission. Force XXI project attributes have been planned methodically and pay tribute to Army senior leader farsightedness.
- Given the long military hardware life cycles, appliques currently represent one of the most cost-effective modernization methods. Appliques are "bolt-on systems" for older Army platforms allowing them digitization capacity.
- The first fully digitized M1A2 battalion might not be fielded because of funding restrictions. Further

concern exists that, by 2010, a threat force could have the same capability as the United States.

- The envisioned Army digital network is not without its potential vulnerabilities. For this reason, the "C² protect" concept has been developed and is being aggressively pursued to identify future enemy countermeasures and how to neutralize them.

- It is not media hype that the Army needs the Longbow Apache (AH-64D). The Longbow Apache represents a significant combat-effective platform compared to its predecessor and interfaces with other combat systems for seamless tracking and engagement of enemy targets.

- Direct broadcasting satellites have tremendous future potential to pinpoint enemy forces and send targeting information to Army weapon systems. Their "digital capability" is much like the AH-64D, yet with far greater geographical application. With space as the 21st-century "high ground," such platforms will likely be fielded within two decades.

- There is concern over the amount of digital traffic that will occur when the brigade-size task force is "turned on" for testing. It is thought that the communications traffic will simply overwhelm force capacity. These types of concerns provide rationale for the extensive testing to be conducted to fully understand Army force and doctrine digitization effects.

- DOD digital interoperability standards must be rigorously enforced to ensure a seamless warfighter information environment. Interoperability within most fielded systems does not currently exist.

- The digitization effects on future Army force structure is now unknown. A future divisional pronouncement unlike anything that has previously existed may be forthcoming.

For Army and government leaders alike, this conference provided a rare and candid view of the technical Force XXI requirements and the planning and development strategies needed to ensure America's Army is well prepared to exploit technology on the digital battlefield of the future.

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