



The Frontenac Times

*In memory of The Wipers Times, with apologies to Captain F.J. Roberts,
12th Bn, Sherwood Foresters*

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Editorial Comment

Paradigm Shifts and the Unbridled Evolution of Process

The blank stares and quizzical looks that seems to occasionally grace the visages of some of our flock make it sadly apparent exactly what the rate of change has been here in the Fort. Even the DS, who spend only a few short years in their lofty positions, and who wish us to believe that they are much too busy to see past their own in-boxes, haven't really noticed the ripples of "Huh?" that have appeared.

Certain DIs have set the scene for some sufferers to realize how much different the "last" Staff Course must have been from the "early" serials. Officers traditionally received one version of the staff process at Staff College and then went out into the world to learn how to make it work. Only with the last mutations of Army staff training did we conceive of delivering two servings of "the official solution" to our officers.

Each DS probably sees one generational evolution of his package(s) of responsibility during his tenure and while they know it's not like it was when they were here (and went to Europe), they did not necessarily experience the constant flow of change before their postings. Since the early Staff Courses, however, there has already been time for possibly two major evolutions of some packages. DS who only remember the Staff Course prior to the last Command Course are blissfully oblivious to this paradigm spiral and the lack of continuity between elements of some Staff Course serials and the current course.

In some cases there has been a complete disjunction between them that when candidates within syndicates meet to converse they do so in diverse tongues (no, it's not a biligualism issue), neither recognizing the other's stock collection of buzz-words and inferences.

"Dislocation" is not just a buzzword.

Looking Ahead:

➔ There's nothing like a good blow-out of a Mess Dinner for a crowning touch of congratulations on a significant career hurdle.

➔ Then again, there's nothing like a farewell luncheon for saying "don't let the door hit you in the ass on the way out."

"Hope is not a course of action."

"So, do you think we've got the Command and Staff Course right this time?"

"Dunno, hope so."

Bradstreet Block vs. The Wolf Island Ferry - You do realize that the Eryx can be fired from inside a room don't you (just remember to leave your door open, warning signs in the hall would be nice too).

Authority – Responsibility – Accountability

Skip the detailed etymological analysis, let's all practice that one phrase that real leaders utter when it matters:

"It was my fault, I am responsible."

Kingston Night Life:

Tir Na' Nog (Saturday night) - "I feel like a pedophile." (Thanks, that ruined the mood!)

Bubba's (Cholesterol Incorporated) - same poutine gravy pot, same poutine gravy

The Plaza (The Local Folk Dancers, or The Cultural Ballet) - probably the only place to see a congregation of people more pitiful than ourselves

Grizzly Grill (the "Gunner's ears" experience) - What!, What!!, What!!!

"So you can be trained."

(Analysis - If you want a dog, use Pavlov's techniques.)

The Reading List:

- On the Psychology of Military Incompetence (Norman F. Dixon) – or, Merit Lists explained. Why some people join armies, why it's your mother's fault, and how to understand that the 'box' is a freezer that petrifies the mind if you stay in it long enough.
- Crisis in Command (Gabriel/Savage) – Step One, identify the problem. Who needs a Vietnam to identify careerism and zero-defect attitudes as being, somehow, incongruous with the precepts of good command and leadership.
- The Peter Principle (Peter/Hull) – The unofficial guide to career management and the explanation to your failure to advance in a hierarchical bureaucracy. Where do you fit in?

On Killing (Dave Grossman) – S.L.A. Marshall's "Men Against Fire" meets the information age. Killing's not easier, we've just become desensitized to the moral implications of the act at the time of execution. Altering the psychological battle-space through the applications of more effective training techniques.

Quotes for the week:

"No matter how big the information pipe, it hits the cognitive firewall."

"You guys are having a violent disagreement."

"What are we training to here? MLOC, DLOC, or Brain-Lock."

"I have no peers, I am only surrounded by stepping-stones."

When Foch was first given an appointment on the General Staff he seems to have made a poor impression, but redeemed his character when he organized a great review at the end of the annual manoeuvres. He used to tell the story in later days: 'At eight o'clock there wasn't even a cat on the parade-ground. At ten minutes past there were 100,000 men'. It is ever a paradox in military affairs that the only way to obtain licence for intellectual ideas is to prove oneself an expert in conventional practices. Having proved himself a super-drillmaster, Foch was considered fit to guide the higher study of war. (Jan. 1931.) - Liddell-Hart, Thoughts on War, 1944

“Going Over the Wall”

In keeping with being housed in a walled compound in Kingston, Canada’s home to many of the Correctional Services’ institutions, Loser Platoon is pleased to sponsor this stimulating and challenging Extreme Sports Competition.

Rules:

1. Teams of six will start at the bar, each member holding one full glass of their own preferred libation.
2. Timings will start at a pre-designated signal (For example, the Crse Sr saying “I need six volunteers.”)
3. Teams must finish their drinks, leaving all six unbroken glasses on the stand-up table, depart the mess and, turning left, head for the far wall between Bradstreet and De Noyen.
4. All team members must then cross over the stone wall, methods are subject to category limitations below.
5. Time stops when the last team member is served a “Medium Double-Double” at Tim Horton’s

Categories:

Hi-Tech: Teams may use mechanical aids to impart or convert kinetic or chemical energy to assist movement (catapults, trebuchets, forklifts, explosives, trampolines).

Lo-Tech: Teams may use aids but none that impart or convert kinetic or chemical energy (ladders, ropes, stacks of DI paper, mess furniture).

Bare-Assed: Teams may use no devices for assistance.

Awards: Awards will be given for best times in each category as well as awards for:

- Best Team Operation Order
- Most Original Crossing Technique
- Teamwork
- Lack of Teamwork
- Best Team Uniforms
- Best Excuse at the Emergency Room

Submit team lists and op pans to the editor.

Watch for next week’s competition: Creative CF98s

Concrete Jungle – Asphalt Battlespace:

What’s the EBB good for if you can’t use it to calculate perfectly useless staff data.

- X Allied Corps has 27,688 vehicles and trailers (not accounting for changes to the EBB structure with 16 Avn Aslt Bde, etc.). Allowing a parking space 4 m wide and 8 m long for each vehicle (on average), as well as one-half as much space for access lanes, the Corps’ Tim Horton’s would need a parking lot 1.33 sq Kms in size.
- If the Corps formed a leaguer with 10 metres between rows of vehicles, the leaguer would cover an area 10.5 sq Km in size.
- At shoulder dressing the Corps’ 234397 personnel would form a battle line four ranks deep extending 44.65 Km in length.
- Averaging 32 vehs/tlrs per trip, it would take one month to move the Corps to Wolfe Island with the current ferry schedule.
- The Corps’ helicopters, flying in line at 100 metres spacing would stretch 83.4 Km from first to last hel.
- At two beer per man per day, the Corps’ daily beer ration would be 39,066 cases of a dozen, which is 88,900 gallons, or 220 water trailers worth of suds.

Coffee Anyone?: This past week we held a vote on the return of afternoon coffee, sticky buns and/or the night lunch. To the dismay of a select few, the results were not close enough for the need to debate the worth of questionable ballots, or to have a superior court decide on the legality of the recount process. Some relevant results were:

- 79% of the course voted in time for the official count, this beats the Canadian average in the last national election by 23% (Democracy inaction, well done all.)
- 22% of the votes received wanted afternoon coffee and daily sticky buns (Sugar can be an addiction, how about a candy-filled vending machine in Courcelles?)
- 6% of respondent wanted the night lunch (I guess four people on each of the past courses ate well each evening).
- 1.3% of the course wanted another vote.
- An unofficial survey indicates that weekly beer-tasting on Fridays could get even better returns. (Fridays, alcohol, lunchtime, back to work – the good old days - some of the kids don’t remember the eighties.)

RECRUITING CRISIS FOR CANADA'S FORCES?

What if they declared a war and nobody came? Or, perhaps more relevant - what if they created a military and nobody joined? ... Fancy that - chop the ranks, deny the military the resources to do the job, send the lowliest troops scurrying to the food banks, toss in an assortment of military scandals and suddenly - suddenly! - nobody wants to don a uniform any more. ... One hopes the new recruiting sales pitch will drop the tired old "No Life Like It" slogan or risk violating truth in advertising laws. ... The problem is this: young men and women aren't being attracted to careers in the military because they've been told by their own government it's a lousy career choice. Those kids who don't bother to read newspapers probably have parents who do. ... It's that, in the course of the last decade, the military has been systematically ground out of our national psyche as a proud national institution. ... How does Eggleton expect to entice thousands of young recruits into its ranks when his government repeatedly shows little respect for those who have already made it a career choice? - Rick Gibbons, The Toronto Sun, 19 Jan 01

DS and Lecturer Contributions:

"Consider yourself part of the Borg."

"Don't confuse doctrine with reality"

"Well, I think what I said was more interesting."

Things We'd Like to Know:

Has anyone examined the list of names for the course? Seems pretty heavily weighted towards the front half of the alphabet all out of proportion to normal distributions of surname capitals. I'm sure there are lots of perfectly reasonable explanations for all of this but one thought seems to come to mind when I imagine the CM selection process: "Well if *all* the Captains are doing it *now*, we might as well just do this alphabetically."

Reserves (the tactical type):

He, general or mere captain, who employs every one in the storming of a position can be sure of seeing it retaken by an organized counterattack of four men and a corporal. - Colonel Ardant du Picq

PSYOPS – establishing the comparative psychological battlespace within which the meeting engagement occurs

Images from the Volleyball Court:

"If you don't care, you can't be embarrassed."

"My performance on the court is like my performance on this course, it won't influence my position on the merit list."

"Steve, it's a non-contact sport."

"Can you imagine being told you're not being promoted this year because you're thinking too much?"
– Col. Howie Marsh, quoted by the Ottawa Citizen, 24 Jan 2001



The Frontenac Times Advice Column

Dear Suppenführer

Dear Suppenführer: Having read Freddy Franks, Winston Churchill and every other author who makes even obscure references to the artillery; what are your thoughts on the relative merits of tubes vice rocket artillery?

Signed: An admiring Student from Syndicate 5

Dear Admiring: What kind of crap is this? Is this a command lecture? Always remember that life is a war game; if you have nothing to add **SHUT UP!**

Dear Suppenführer: I cannot find any good fresh fruit in Kingston. What should I do?

Signed: Another troublemaker from Syndicate 5.

Dear Troublemaker: You might be well advised to worry about your inability to use a knife and fork first. It all boils down to the consideration of COA's: Do I use the finger I just removed from a nasal orifice or do I learn how to use a fork like the other humans. (P.S. get a haircut)

Arbeit macht Frei