



The Frontenac Times

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

Vol 2. No. 5

Thursday, 15th February, 2001

Price: Five bullets

Editorial Comment

And the over-riding question remains: "How many different campaigns and tactical situations can we make the students keep in their fore-brains at once." We all know that there is going to be a serious clash of the rising DS work-intensity curve and the falling student background knowledge curve over the next few courses. Given that inevitability and the associated stress involved for all parties, isn't it time to start economizing on the rote information assimilation requirements.

Seriously now, over just more than one week we:

- were briefed on the final exercise(s) campaign plan,
- then immediately sent to mount maps and complete reading into a completely different scenario with the same formations 60 Km to the NORTH,
- when that exercise was complete we practiced Step 2 of the OPP, same division, different continent,

➤ finally we ended the week with a divisional order assignment using, once again the same formation (plus a whole lot of esoteric clag that merely made sorting things out a staff duties scavenger hunt with brain-damaging consideration of conflicting sources) and a whole new tactical situation.

Perhaps when the course was a bit longer, and broken up by the occasional excursion, there was time for everyone to dump the old situation and absorb the new one. With the new time-compressed format, it only caused confusion and, inevitably, a lower degree of readiness as even the more diligent attempt to sort through masses of similar but inapplicable information.

Given the anticipated pace and throughput of upcoming TCSCs, it may be time to look seriously at economies of frustration. A simpler, more coherent campaign plan that lasts throughout the course is one possible solution. Perhaps only a C(-) solution, but one possible solution nonetheless.

Quotes:

Merit Lists:

"I'm the guy lying across the wire as wave after wave of careerists move up."

Candidate: "They'll be renting ice skates in hell the day I come here as DS."

DS: "Yeah, that's what I said too."

Splitting the Squadrons(s):

"Tanks are very important, I think every infantry section should have one."

Administrative Planning:

DS – "Well, there doesn't seem to be anything major missing."

Pregnant pause while DS departs

"How about my will to live."

Battlespace Analysis:

DS: "Andy, define an MDA for me, what is it exactly?"

"Why it's kind of like an Assy Area Sir."

DS: "Huh, an Assy Area?"

"Why yes Sir, it's an Assy Area with attitude really..."

WAS CSCC60 – The Divisional [Dis]Order

Direct extract from Student Survey DB entry

(Rating 1):

Regurgitation of a final product we have not been given any formal instruction on how to produce (WRT specialist input). At least with CSCC 27 and the TUX, the op order building process is logical.

The clerical, conceptual and staff work errors in this exercise do nothing to provoke any profound thinking and appear to be designed to rely on obscure, contradicting and out-of-date references to trick the students. If students were to submit intentions and concepts of ops based on the examples of Comd X Allied Corps and Comd 4 Div during LFSC they would have had to be re-done. To wit, the Ex instruction that indicates: "completeness, clarity, accuracy, brevity, format and staff duties" - all of which are lacking from the supplied documents that form the basis for the students answer.

What is the real aim of this WAS?

Alternative Communications Systems:

TCCCS – Tin Cups, Coke Cans and String

(At least parts from different manufacturers will work together.)

WAS 60 The Divisional Order

Brought to you by the makers of MS Word and of the staff duties templates.

Read, read, read

decipher

compare to example

cut

paste

type

cut

paste

check footer



oh, bother!

Lessons Learned:

- That I should expect and accept sub-standard work from my fellow staff officers.
- That the movement of the college's server to base IS NOT an improvement.
- That LCol Vien's templates, despite his best efforts, are not idiot proof.
- That my peers, under stress, are less than tolerant of my computer illiteracy.
- That there's nothing better than a friendly LCol with an open bar after a long day of electron wrangling.

And well done to whomever posted only the Anglo WAS 60 docs to the Common drive. Considering that only three hands went up when the course was asked who was dysfunctional in la langue francais, you might have dislocated fewer people by only posting the franco docs.

CIMIC: "We have had no serious problems with the refugee situation throughout the HARZ region. Environmental protesters, however, are blocking the activities of 4 Cdn Div Forestry Company. This interference will delay production of the Divisional Op Order until either sufficient MPs can be found to take them away or the use of lethal force is authorized."

The TCSC Medal



Description:

An unbalanced octagon, weighted toward the bottom third. On the obverse a depiction of Minerva, the Owl boreid to daytime sleep at many empire staff colleges, stoic by day, a hunter by night after DIs are done. Minerva surmounted by a crown and in turn surmounting crossed swords and scrolls bearing "Canada" and some obscure motto that course students won't remember anyway. On the Reverse the inscription "This is not a chocolate." Inscribed on the lower edge: the recipients name

and the total number of weeks on course to complete Command and Staff training; example, "LFSC (20) + TCSC (10)".

Ribbon:

In three colours: Predominantly Grey, in memoriam of the CRT pallor developed during endless cut-and-paste DI preparatory episodes; Red, for the bloodshot eyes of candidates trying to balance huge time demands for study with an undiminished social schedule, and Green, representing envy toward peers who will complete Command and Staff Training in only 16 weeks (and a bare ten in residence).

Bars:

A series of bars may be awarded for distinguished participation in College activities. Notable among them are "Normandy (Hall)", "Korea (MBr)", "MS Word" and "Cheese." The "Europe" bar has been retired.

Subsequent Awards:

Recommendations for award of a second TCSC medal may be entertained by the medals committee. If so approved, the TCSC Medal may be supplemented by one or more awards of the following distinction:

"The BS Cluster"

Pythonesque musings:

"Ummm, excuse me, I paid for an argument."
"Oh, sorry, this is abuse. You want the next syndicate."

"Have we beaten that horse enough?"
"He's not dead, he's just sleeping!"

What would we do if we ran out of cheese?

The Staff College Students' Toasts of the Day:

Monday - Our syndicate at sea.

Tuesday - Our men, fine electrons they be.

Wednesday – To us, and to the last course as well, for they are our future leaders.

Thursday – To a system crash while the self-appointed favourites command.

Friday - A willing DS and tangents.

Saturday - Sweethearts and Cougars (and hell to pay if they meet).

Sunday - Absent friends, for they know not what awaits them.



Have You Seen This Man:

Approach with caution, do not mix with alcohol. An evil composite alien entity inhabiting the stolen bodies of two staff officers. It exists outside the moral plane of humanity and inhabits a world representative of Dr. Suess gone bad - like Thing 1 and Thing 2 on steroids and operating with malicious intent. Use of deadly force while attempting to control their darker urges may be considered morally acceptable.

Who sets the tempo at Fort Frontenac - The Base G6!

Logistics, (Ah!, the good old days.):

To provide a graphic picture of the requirements of an [Napoleonic] army of about 250,000 men and 100,000 horses, the figures for the daily needs of such an army will suffice: 225 tons of bread, 550 tons of oats, 550 tons of hay, 450 tons of straw, and 2800 tons of fresh fodder. To supply these quantities, 410 vehicles or carts were required. - HW Koch, History of Warfare



The Frontenac Times Advice Column

Dear Suppenführer

Dear Suppenfuehrer: I really want to punish my little brats for their recent shithole attempt at staff duties corrections. I wanted to give the misguided and delinquent cherls [sic] a "QT" that would send them reeling, but all my tests do that anyways. What do you suggest?

Signed: Your Admirer....

Dear Admirer: Firstly, your sycophantic admiration of my directive approach to guidance is unwarranted and sickening. Take your pathetic band of losers (remember, each Corps rushed their "A" team onto the last CSC) out for lunch and give them one small thing to remember fondly of their trials under your challenging tutelage, which by all rumours resembles Conan's early years on the Wheel of Death. Your tutorial now comes to an end, time to release the balls and work on hearts and minds for an ultimate and unexpected act of dislocation. – [PS: it's spelled "churl," Oxford Current English (reference number 56), page 145]

Dear Suppenführer: Can it be that all the CSS guys hate operations as much as we hate the administration "Groundhog Day"

Signed: DS

Dear BS (Sorry about that) DS: Napoleon once said that amateurs study tactics and professionals study logistics: but what the hell did he know he got his ass kicked. Lets bring it on down to OPP. It's like war-gaming: tedious, frustrating and forces those guys who never open their mouths to speak. March in the next **Whiner!**

Dear Suppenführer: I feel like I'm back in Kindergarten arts and crafts with all this cutting and pasting. What gives?

Signed: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]: It's kind of like employing engineers, you have to limit their employment to tasks involving only the grossest motor skills. Picture it in terms of the estimate: Friendly force capabilities.

