

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

When Do We Get to The Hard Stuff?

So far, it's been doctrine this and doctrine that, we continually play inside the doctrine box which, though expanded from past years, remains a constraint nonetheless. Our tactical DIs keep pretty close to the context of the problem, we expound upon our doctrine but we do not yet challenge it. What about the tactical situations that aren't really covered by the doctrine?

How about the Meeting Engagement, for example. We've heard about it for years, we know the Granovians (and all their predecessor adversaries) have used it effectively for decades, but what is our response to it? Even abbreviated OPP just might be a bit slow for effective counter-measures. And what will we do if we encounter large-scale meeting engagement tactics in the Final Drive when the enemy pucksters have time to program such entertainment (let alone real reality)? But we don't have a doctrine for that, or a method, or a model. Winning a meeting engagement depends on effective formation battle drills, or extreme application of auftragstaktik based on a thorough understanding of the situation and response requirement at all command levels. But it's just not part of our doctrine, so we'll

just assume that one away. Right now, our doctrine and complementary knowledge of the enemy's doctrine will carry us up to about the G2 portion of the information brief when he says: "It looks like they're executing a meeting engagement," and then we're all following simple orders in Granovian until the cessation of hostilities.

Alternatively, how about the rout? Sure it's an uncontrolled movement by your own troops away from the enemy, perhaps compounded by the enemy's conduct of a pursuit (which we do teach). And, granted, we do not want to teach our officers on how to *conduct* a rout. But we spend a lot of time talking about the potential for extreme situations of leadership on the moral plane and ethical counter-measures, but not about the potential for tactical disaster on the physical plane and what a commander might do to mitigate the effects. What are the commander's options when the enemy is executing a successful pursuit? What can you do when a formation loses cohesion to the extent that the battlefield has a great hole in its matrix? Frankly, you don't want to be working for a commander who first asks himself these questions as his own troops stream past him to the rear.

So, are we really out of the box yet?

Quotes:

Mision Verbs:

“The CSS guys aren’t as stupid as the combat arms, they do not need to be constrained by a simple list of verbs.”

OPP:

“The information brief is not an opportunity for face time with the Comd or COS.”

Korea Hall, States of Consciousness:

“I was so far gone during that presentation, you could have stolen my kidney and I wouldn’t have noticed.”

Operational OxyMorons:-- “controlled penetrations”

If we could control the enemy, why would we let them achieve a penetration? Conversely, if they’re going right where we want them, why do we call it a penetration?

It’s all Based on Your Point of View:

And this past weekend we were declared 50% percent complete. Hmmmmm, let’s think about that one:

Total Time on Course:

16 weeks (LFSC) + 10 weeks (TCSC) = 26 weeks

We have completed:

16 weeks (LFSC) + 5 weeks (TCSC) = 21 weeks

Math: (the folks with the iron pinky ring can help the grunts through this step):

$$21 \text{ weeks} / 26 \text{ weeks} \times 100\% = 81\%$$

Analysis:

We’re not 50% complete, we’re much further down the pipe than that – we’re 81% complete.

Conclusion:

We’ve already accumulated twice as much time here as anyone without the LFSC will spend in the Fort.

And there are *still* five weeks to go.

Presenting: COA Number One - From Volume One of the Frontenac Times (Vol 1. No. 2, 9 Apr 98):

Smoke and Mirrors – LFSC (“The Junior Course”)

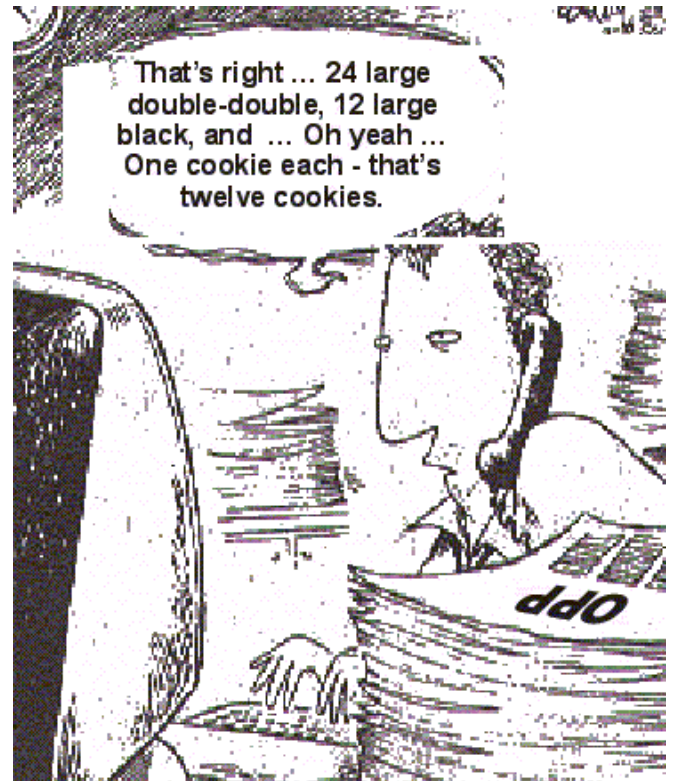
Mirror-Management – the process by which a few weak proposals are highlighted and viewed from multiplicitous points of view to generate the image of a solid object (or workable plan).

Smoke-Sculpting – The quick and repetitive reiteration of a hazy idea of a plan until the rapid working of hands, arms and mouth leave the impression of a tangible object on the retinas and neural patterns of the observer.

First, RTFI:

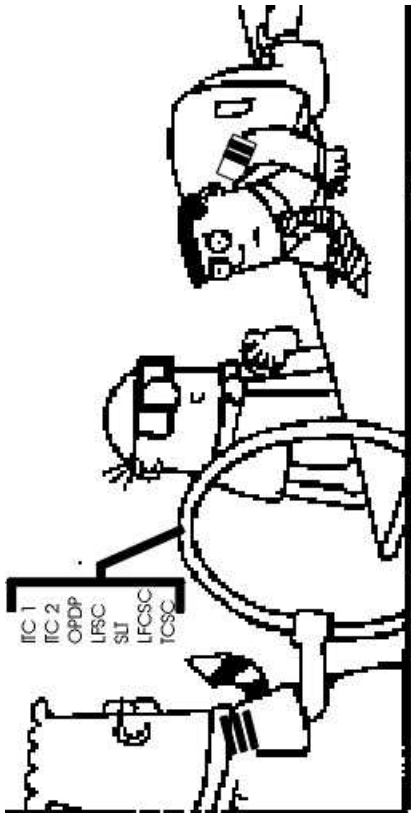
He forced himself to his feet. A grey-uniformed figure lurched round the corner of the trench. He snatched up his bomb and flung it full in the German’s face.

"Christ. That must have hurt," he said. "I forgot to pull the pin." - Daniel George (Queen's Westminster Rifles); quoted in Guy Chapman, OBE, MC (Ed), *Vain Glory; A miscellany of the Great War 1914-1918, 1937/1968*



Theory of Evolution: The LFCSC became the LFSC + LFCSC. The LFSC has disappeared and the LFCSC has become the TCSC (or the DL + TCSC). The TCSC will become the AOC (Army Operations Course). There’s talk of creation of new operational training courses for Army Majors. The driving force for the shoehorning of new material into these future courses will probably be the perceived delta between the traditional capabilities of CLFCSC graduates and the new DL/AOC crew. Prognosis: Since your file will be tagged as a TCSC graduate, you just might find yourself on a new OPP focussed course for Majors in the not so distant future. (Don’t throw away your notes.)

What is this tactical task: “Bounce” (And what is its symbol – a “Tigger” graphic?)



Attrition Warfare:

attrition – to wear down, as by rubbing, or friction

- *attrit* – this is not a word
- *attritted* – this is not a word
- *attrital* – this is not a word

Unless, of course, we're talking about the attrition of the English language. But wouldn't the invention of words be somewhat counter to the staff principle of clarity. [Oops, sorry, thinking out loud again.]

Inspirational Slogans: (Striving for a "C")

Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.

Indecision is the key to Flexibility.

Aim Low, Reach your Goals, Avoid Disappointment.

Not all Pain is Gain.

Proving knowledge and competence may get you a Commander' appointment on Final Drive, alternatively, cutting talc is much easier..

When in doubt, blame the poor staff duties in the whites.

Look, There's a Whole World Outside This Box!:

Now this may be talking with one leg thrown over the crib rail again but if this is a *Command* and Staff Course, then wouldn't it stand to reason that the SALs should include an student appointment as the *Commander*? Perhaps if a few more of the time-consuming colouring products were provided, then a five-person team could do the cerebral parts of the IPB/OPP cycle while the sixth portrays, under the DS' supervision, the Commander's responsibilities for analysing the planning cycle and moulding the result to his/her intentions.



The Frontenac Times Advice Column

Dear Suppenführer

Dear Suppenführer: The course dress is combat. the Army's dress-of-the-day is combat. Why was the course photo taken in DEU?

Signed: Puzzled Monkey

Dear Simian: <Sigh> We've been through this all before. Now I want you to pay attention because I will not explain this again:-- "Put five apes in a cage ...". You should be disciplined for such a poor understanding of the hierarchical bureaucracies.

Dear Suppenführer: What about labour saving devices?

Signed: Alpha Geek

Dear Geek: You people have far too much time on your hands if you can even conceptualize such things. *I* never had it when *I* went to Staff College, only by laboriously typing every letter yourself with all ten of your thumbs on the keyboard can you achieve the zen state of p.l.c.s.c. Get back to work!

Arbeit macht Frei

It's a Dirty Job, But Somebody's Got To Do It.

Why should the DS get to monopolize the selection process for **Exercise Final Drive** appointments. You've got an opinion too, and you deserve to be heard. Take a few minutes and complete the attached form to nominate your choices for these very special jobs. Will you claim "Commander" for yourself and populate the staff with eager, hard-working staff. Or will you assign jobs in inverse proportion between demands of the appointments and individual aptitude for the position just to watch the pressure build.

Appointment	COA	Nomination
Comd 4 Div	"On my Command, Unleash Hell!"	
COS	"Official staff abuser."	
G3	"Product over purpose."	
G3 Ops	"You guys can start planning Phase II, I just finished fighting Phase I."	
G3 Plans	"Hey, what are you doing Friday night?"	
G3 Avn	"I don't need no stinkin' FLOCARK."	
G2	"The sky is falling!"	
G2 Plans	"OK, who wants something from Tim's?"	
G1	"Here's the G1 Annex, it might need some tidying up."	
G4	"Let's pretend for a moment that these tanks are real."	
G4 Tn	"17,000 vehicles, 4 hours, 100 km? No problem, I'll just juggle the number a bit. How does 4 lanes at 120 kph and 100 vehs per km sound?"	
CDA	"So which is it that you want?!? On time ... or on target?."	
CDE	"Oh yeah, got my bridge stretcher right here."	
Div Chaplain	"Lord, bless this course report which has been given us after such trials."	
Comd 11 CIB	"Move Fast. Stay Low. Dig Deep."	
Comd 12 CIB	"Form Square."	
Comd 13 CAB	"Arrogance may be a perceived principle of Cavalry, but it should be a Principle of War."	
Talc Bitch.	"I can never find the my red stress card when I need it."	