



Commandant's Note

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Forced Entry and the Contingency Force

Much has been published in the past few years regarding Force XXI operations, structure, and equipment. Within the last year, our Army under TRADOC leadership has concluded brigade and division warfighting experiments to determine how we will look and fight in the next century. I sometimes hear that this is all about "heavy." This perception does not recognize the participation of light Infantry in the brigade Advanced Warfighting Experiment (AWE), which was preceded by a light AWE at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) in 1995 (Focused Dispatch). The Force XXI experimental axis continues and we are now positioned for a series of technology demonstrations and programs with a primary emphasis on light and contingency based forces that will culminate in a major AWE. That is the focus of this note.

First, some general assumptions on potential threats and our ability to meet them over the next two decades: We know that various regional powers are experiencing rapid technological growth and a commensurate increase in military capabilities, at a time when our own military force is shrinking and we have fewer units forward positioned to respond to regional contingencies. In a recent report, the National Defense Panel warned that "We must be able to project military power much more rapidly into areas where we may not have stationed forces...." It is clear we must plan and train in order to project flexible, survivable combat power anywhere in the world on short notice, and we must be able to sustain and reinforce deployed forces as needed. This means we must be able to rapidly deploy Infantry as part of a

combined arms team from home station—when required by regional commanders-in-chief—to hot spots overseas quickly and with the right equipment. Such an undertaking is both demanding in its preparation and crucial in its execution; demanding in terms of coordination, training, and expense and crucial because it allows our national command authority to respond to challenges to our national interests with appropriate force when necessary.

A second assumption in some contingency operations is that forced entry is the only way into the area of operations, and when it comes to executing the close, personal, and brutal fight required in forced entry operations, no one does it better than U.S. Army Infantry. In these types of operations, we will have one—and only one—chance to do it right the first time. This requires the right equipment, training, and mindset to get in fast, hit hard if necessary, and then leave rapidly when the job is done, or receive following forces.

The final assumption—based upon both recent experience and practical considerations—is that any forced entry contingency operation will be part of a joint force. This is not a new concept. We have drawn upon the capabilities of our sister services throughout our nation's history, and we must continue to develop doctrine and training which fully exploits their capabilities.

Contingency based operations including "forced entry" is one of the highest priority initiatives at the Infantry School. In July, 1997, our Dismounted Battlespace Battle Lab (DBBL) assumed proponentcy for all forced entry and early entry tactical functions from the former Early Entry

Lethality and Survivability (EELS) Battle Lab at Fort Monroe, Virginia. The DBBL provides the overall direction, oversight, and horizontal integration necessary to enhance combat and force development capabilities for future early entry operations and focuses on optimizing both the lethality and the survivability of forces involved in early entry missions. This will also include improving our ability to deploy forces on short notice, the inclusion of Special Operations Forces in planning for early and forced entry operations, and the development and training of the right mix of forces for contingency missions.

In preparation for future contingency missions, we have begun work on a Joint Contingency Force AWE scheduled for Fiscal Year 2000/2001. This AWE is designed to draw together, synergize, and test many of the emerging concepts, technological advances, and programs from agencies and services we expect to be involved in the conduct of forced entry contingency force operations. The contingency force AWE will focus on evaluating technologies, doctrine, and organizations available to a joint task force (JTF) given the mission to conduct forced entry and follow-on operations. We will use the AWE results as we integrate Army light and contingency forces into Force XXI. We also plan to closely examine joint logistical initiatives that can enhance our ability to sustain contingency forces. Another benefit of the AWE is the opportunity to exercise command, control, communications, computers, and intelligence (C4I) links between members of this joint service force.

The AWE will also leverage other programs and experiments to integrate lessons learned and other results to streamline contingency plan SOP's, training, and doctrinal literature. One such program, the Rapid Force Projection Initiative (RPFI), will be conducted at Fort Benning during July and August, 1998, and linked to other simulation sites around the country. It will include selected elements of the XVIII Airborne Corps and a brigade of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). The AWE is designed to demonstrate potential technology solutions for early entry forces in the areas of survivability, lethality, target acquisition, and battle tempo. New technologies that will be exercised during the RFPI include the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS), Lightweight Digital Tactical Operations Center (LDTOC), Enhanced Fiber Optic Guided Missile (EFOGM), and the Remote Sentry target acquisition system.

The increasing urbanization of the world's de-

veloping countries brings with it the reality that early entry scenarios are likely to involve military operations on urbanized terrain (MOUT). For this reason we scheduled a MOUT advanced concept technology demonstration (ACTD) with the Army as lead (via the Infantry School), partnered with the U.S. Marine Corps (USMC). This ACTD started with a series of experiments that complement the work of the RFPI and contribute to the development of technologies to improve the lethality and survivability of soldiers in urban and other restrictive terrain. The MOUT ACTD started in January of this year and will last until FY 2000. It will culminate in a demonstration exercise that will provide the foundation for the contingency force AWE. This ACTD will coincide with an extensive Defense Advanced Research Project Agency (DARPA) program based on "Small Unit Operations" in close terrain including MOUT, for which we are once again the lead in a joint effort.

The National Defense Panel concluded that contingency forces will be increasingly combined arms, will most likely be a joint effort involving all four services, and will be multinational to the greatest extent possible. We concur in this assessment, and, with that in mind, our DBBL has been working closely with the USMC Commandant's Warfighting Lab, which is conducting its own experiments while supporting the MOUT ACTD. The Contingency Force AWE will draw heavily upon the lessons learned in the Marine Corps experiments and will leverage the latest technological advances in the fields of airborne satellite communications relay, long haul communications, unmanned aerial platforms, and decision aids.

Sooner or later, the Infantry, as part of a joint contingency force, will once again be called upon to project American combat power to protect American vital interests and or citizens. We must be ready to move swiftly, strike hard if necessary, and redeploy once our mission is accomplished. The integration of previous warfighting experiments, advanced concept technology demonstrations, and other technological programs and projects into a capstone advanced warfighting experiment will allow the Infantry Center to develop equipment, doctrinal, and training innovations required to respond across the warfighting spectrum. This will ensure tomorrow's Infantryman can deploy when called, quickly establish a foothold, and—if necessary—overcome, and subdue enemy forces around the world. Hooah!