

Westmoreland

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 almost nonexistent. Only a few visionaries saw real utility in the tank. Primitive aerial observation brought only marginal improvements in intelligence gathering. The density of troops in the front line, reduced from that of Waterloo, still remained high as soldiers crowded shoulder to shoulder in their network of trenches. Without mobility and information about the enemy, the newly acquired firepower served little purpose.

World War II saw the tank mature, and armies organized to capitalize on this capability. Mobility began to gain on firepower. While the Navy was developing sonar and air elements proceeded with intercept radars, Army target acquisition systems remained essentially at the World War I level. The wheeled vehicle improved our support effort. But we were still confined to the ground with our airlift capability remaining minimal.

The increased mobility, however, did permit combat elements to disperse over a wider front, and the density of troops along the battle lines became smaller. Still, the absence of a refined intelligence capability permitted only small economics of force.

But the Vietnam War has seen a revolution in ground force mobility. We no longer assign units a sector of frontage. Instead, units are responsible for an operational area. And with the mobility of the helicopter, units like the 101st Airborne Divisions cover hundreds of square miles with their airmobile blankets.

The revolution I envision for the future comes not from the helicopter alone, but from systems that heretofore have been unknown.

For a moment, let us consider the basic combat role of the Army. As the Nation's land force, our mission is to defeat enemy forces in land combat and to gain control of the land and its people. In this role, we have traditionally recognized five functions. But we have emphasized only three: mobility, firepower, and command and control—in other words—move, shoot, and communicate. To me, the other two—intelligence and support—have not been sufficiently stressed. Placing the functions in proper perspective, I visualize the Army's job in land combat as:

First, we must find the enemy.
 Second, we must destroy the enemy.

And third, we must support the forces that perform the other two functions.

By studying operations in Vietnam, one can better understand these functions.

Large parts of the infantry, ground and air cavalry, and aviation are used in what I will now call "STANO"—surveillance, target acquisition and night observation, or function number one—finding the enemy. In this function large areas can be covered continuously by aerial surveillance systems, unattended ground sensors, radars and other perfected means of finding the enemy. These systems can permit us to deploy our fires and forces more effec-

tively in the most likely and most productive areas.

The second function—destroying the enemy—is the role of our combat forces—artillery, air, armor, and infantry, together with the helicopters needed to move the combat troops. Firepower can be concentrated without massing large numbers of troops. In Vietnam where artillery and tactical air forces inflict over two-thirds of the enemy casualties, firepower is responsive as never before. It can rain destruction anywhere on the battlefield within minutes . . . whether friendly troops are present or not.

Inherent in the function of destroying the enemy is fixing the enemy. In the past, we have devoted sizeable portions of our forces to this requirement. In the future, however, fixing the enemy will become a problem primarily in time rather than space. More specifically, if one knows continually the location of his enemy and has the capability to mass fires instantly, he need not necessarily fix the enemy in one location with forces on the ground. On the battlefield of the future, enemy forces will be located, tracked, and targeted almost instantaneously through the use of data links, computer assisted intelligence evaluation, and automated fire control. With first round kill probabilities approaching certainty, and with surveillance devices that can continually track the enemy, the need for large forces to fix the opposition physically will be less important.

Although the future portends a more automated battlefield, we do visualize a continuing need for highly mobile forces to surround, canalize, block or otherwise maneuver an enemy into the most luc-

ative target.

The third function includes an improved communication system. This system not only would permit commanders to be continually aware of the entire battlefield panorama down to squad and platoon level, but would permit logistics systems to rely more heavily on air lines of communications.

Today, machines and technology are permitting economy of manpower on the battlefield as indeed they are in the factory. But the future offers even more possibilities for economy. I am confident the American people expect this country to take full advantage of its technology - to welcome and applaud the developments that will replace wherever possible the man with the machine.

Based on our total battlefield experience and our proven technological capability, I foresee a new battlefield array.

I see battlefields or combat areas that are under 24 hour real or near real time surveillance of all types.

I see battlefields on which we can destroy anything we locate through instant communications and the almost instantaneous application of highly lethal firepower.

I see a continuing need for highly mobile combat forces to assist in fixing and destroying the enemy.

The changed battlefield will dictate that the supporting logistics system also undergo change.

I see the forward end of the logistics system with mobility equal to the supported force.

I see the elimination of many intermediate support echelons and the use of inventory-in-motion techniques.

I see some Army forces supported by air - in some instances directly from bases here in the continental United States.

In both the combat and support forces of the future I see a continuing need for our traditionally highly skilled, well-motivated individual soldier...the soldier who has always responded in time of crisis - and the soldier who will accept and meet the challenges of the future.

Currently, we have hundreds of surveillance, target acquisition, night observation and information processing systems either in being, in development or in engineering. These range from field computers to advanced airborne sensors and new night vision devices.

Our problem now is to further our knowledge - exploit our technology, and equally important - to incorporate all these devices into an integrated land combat system.

Pyranees divide scenery

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"Just came back from Eastern Europe. Don't feel like going right back. Too bad, it might have been nice . . ."

The proprietor, a dour looking little British man tripped in from another room, and tripped right back in again.

"Don't worry about him!" my Florence bound friend told me. "Old John looks in once in a while to sort of situate himself."

I brought a couple of posters - someone has to support old John and the travelling student cause in Paris, and promised to return some day.

During the rest of my stay in Paris, I managed to get all my

papers in order for entrance into Poland (which was my primary reason for being there in the first place), get wet in Parisian rainstorms (I weathered one out in one of those little guard booths - of the type that stand in front of Buckingham Palace in London - near the French legislative buildings with a friendly guard - "Si vous ne dites rien, je ne dirai rien non plût." - If you don't tell, neither will I!"), spent an hour on top of Notre Dame, letting the wind blow around me, staring at the city life below me. The longer I was there, the more I loved it.

Someday, I will go back. Anyone else coming?

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