



The Frontenac Times

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

Vol 2. No. 7

Thursday, 1st March, 2001

Price: One gallon of gas and six cigarettes

Editorial Comment

“It is worth while to become a good trainer of troops.”
- Major M.K. Wardle, DSO, MC, Foundations of
Soldiering, 1936.

The importance of good training cannot be understated, but we continue to side-step the central issue of establishing good training development skills in our general service officers. The Canadian Army has a superb instructional methodology that has been honed to a keen edge by many generations of very professional NCOs. The Training Development Branch, created not long ago, has now evolved past being a refuge for those who couldn't do and now provides structure and guidance over the grander schemes of training evolution and validity. But a gap remains, it is a gap as much in practice as it is, in our minds, a failure to realize that it does, in fact exist.

Beyond basic officer training, where an officer may (or may not) be required to demonstrate some rudimentary ability in the delivery of theoretical lessons, an officer's training on training is generally limited to the development of timetables based on CTPs or other collections of data and numbers.

We continue to miss the steps of learning how to identify training objectives, break these down into executable lessons and then the design of practical training events that are specifically tailored to those objectives. Often a recurrent exercise, at unit or course level, follows certain sequences of events because “that's the way we've always done it.” It is no wonder we never prepare for the next war, we are too busy following our footsteps along the well-worn paths created by the experience of the last one.

While we all seek appointments of command over those in training billets, it has allowed a creeping presumption that trainers are lower on the evolutionary scale than line officers. This has resulted in a tenuous focus on the importance of quality in training, not just in delivery, but in continuous management of training events to ensure validity, currency and applicability. Often this may require detailed research and the cognitive ability to recreate why something is being done a certain way, and then to establish if the training content and method remains valid.

Of course, that might take an officer corps that has been taught to think, question, write, and speak up, and been rewarded for doing so in the interest of the Army.

Quotes:

DS – “Time is our enemy.” Candidate - “We’ll have to get the G4 to bring up the ten-tonne full of time.”

“How do we get more copies of this [The Frontenac Times] for the DS?”

Ex-DS – “I see the *Times* is back. Put me on the distribution list.”

DS (following presentation of **three** COAs: ...and where’s your third COA?

“Each person is a node in the hierarchy”

It’s All Up To You: “*You will get out of this course what you put in to it.*” ... “*The only pressure on you here will be that which you generate yourself.*” ... Sound familiar? Don’t you wish it were true? You may need to “pass” the CLFCSC/TCSC to get potential points in your Corps merit list, but has anyone ever seen evidence that a higher final grade has given additional credit at that level? ... I didn’t think so. So what has functionally become an attend course where it matters is differentiated principally by personal desires and individual efforts, whether motivated by an irrational need to claw your way past others at every career opportunity or simply a professional pride in accomplishment. Then again it’s too bad the set of measurables is primarily confined to staff production. And that one about the self-generated pressure is *so* quaint. It completely sets aside those unfortunate incidents of a collapsing computer service, and the occasional DS that changes IPT to GPT in mid-stride or demands a level of detail in production that completely obliterates the time essential for the opportunity for collective achievement of lessons regarding comprehension of the bigger picture and the general command/staff process at formation level. .. Oh damn, I’m thinking rationally again – Look out! Here come the other apes! ... Uh, excuse me, I have to go and FLOCARK the Germany again.

The Fashion Statement: “This season I see bold sweeping slashes of red ... deep, deep red ...not pinkish ... not plum or burgundy ... but the bright gorgeous red of the Communist flag, such a violent, dramatic Red. I see massive arrows, striking deep into the heart of your world ... filling your personal space and making their presence known in an undeniable manner. ... Please! People! Work with me on this! ... You cannot escape the power of this red ... surrender yourself to it ... Red will completely overwhelm any hint of blue as this season’s predominant colour.”

Things You Just Don’t Want to Hear:

Comd – “At My Command, Unleash Heck!”

COS – “I want you all to stay focussed on the mission ... ooh, Timbits, can I have some”

G3 – I’ve got two COAs, now I just need one to keep.

G3 Avn – “We can’t fly in this weather, the pilots would get an unbalanced tan.”

G2 – “Oops, guess I underestimated that pretty badly, eh?”

G4 – “I thought it was supportable. I never could figure out those spreadsheets.”

G4 Tn – Nice plan Einstein, let me see if the tanks have warp drive yet.”

G1 – “That’s right, I said four *thousand* body bags, send them straight to the infantry brigades to save time later.”

CDA – “Both phases! I thought you said that was the allocation for Phase One!”

CDE – Obstacle Plan! I thought you wanted an Obstacle Course! Do you think 5 miles of chin-up bars will slow them down?”

Talc Bitch – “There just isn’t any more.”

The typical staff officer is the man past middle life, spare, unwrinkled, intelligent, cold, passive, non-committal; with eyes like a cod-fish, polite in contact but at the same time unresponsive, cool, calm and as damnably composed as a concrete post or a plaster-of-Paris cast; a human petrification with a heart of feldspar and without charm or the friendly germ; minus bowels, passion or a sense of humour. Happily they never reproduce and all of them finally go to hell. - Anonymous



Beware the fist.

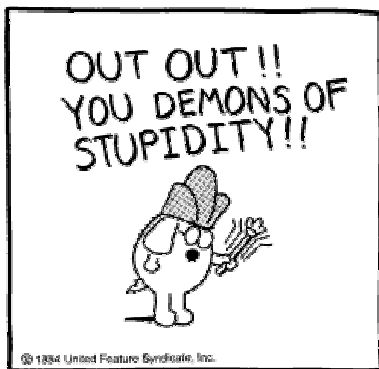
One Possible Solution.

The following nominations for Final Drive were taken from a randomly selected entry from last week's edition. If a second list is submitted, it may be published next week. (And the drafter of this set of nominations should be posted to Valcartier to meet the rest of the Army.)

Appointment	Nomination
Comd 4 Div	
COS	
G3	
G3 Ops	
G3 Plans	
G3 Avn	
G2	
G2 Plans	
G1	
G4	
G4 Tn	
CDA	
CDE	
Div Chaplain	
Comd 11 CIB	
Comd 12 CIB	
Comd 13 CAB	
Talc Bitch.	

CSCOPS 05 – Training the Echelons Beyond Reality.

Using fictional numbers, create training plan options for a fictional brigade and ignore all real-world issues.



JF's Personal Acronym:

FIGJAM – “F**k I'm Good! Just Ask Me!”



The Frontenac Times Advice Column

Dear Suppenführer

Dear Suppenführer: What does CSCOps 80 (Syndicate Organized Activity) mean? We're in an Army that doesn't drink, doesn't swear and doesn't even put up pin-up posters. What possible common ground could we have for a “Syndicate Organized Activity” with the visiting ~~eops~~ peace officers? Should we organize a volleyball game?

Signed: Centred in the Box

Dear Centred: Why don't you use your one working neuron to throw yourself in front of the Wolfe Island Ferry and save us all the trouble of your existence? I am sure that at least one of your peers has the cohomies to show our visitors some local culture. Your lack of initiative is unsurprisingly conformist. And you should internalize that volleyball ... fixation.

Dear Suppenführer: Richard Meinertzhagen once said the “Leadership is the practical application of character.” When will I be issued one and how is it used?

Signed: Obedience Before Honesty

Dear Before: It has been said that “The German General Staff, used to divide army officers into four categories: the clever and lazy, the clever and hard-working, the stupid and lazy, and the stupid and hard-working. The best Generals, the Germans found, came from the clever and lazy; the best staff officers emerged from the clever and hard-working; the stupid and lazy could be made useful as regimental officers; but the stupid and hard-working were a menace, to be disposed of as soon as possible.” You must have been an effective officer on regimental service. Now, get back to work!

Arbeit macht Frei

Sometimes it's Worth a Little More Recognition Than Just a "C"

The DS have already formatted and written your course report for your Corps representative, who never saw you, to debrief. All that remains is that little touch-up, a "+" or a "-" after the grade. And, after all you've worked for, there won't even be a semblance of a proper awards dinner. No paparazzi, no red carpet, no opportunity to tearfully thank your Mom and Dad for all their support, or your peers for their hard work that you stole. But here's a chance to get the recognition that you really deserve, the votes of your peers for your properly selected and well-deserved honour. And that's not all, even you can take part in this process, nominate your friends, your enemies. Submit your votes to the *Times*. And remember, you can't win if you don't perform.

Award	Intrepid Venture	Final Drive	Nominee
Best Performance in a Commanding Role			
Best Performance in a Support Role			
Best Performance in a Service Support Role			
Most Surprisingly Effective Performance			
Worst Performance in a Commanding Role			
Worst Performance in a Support Role			
Worst Performance in a Service Support Role			
Most Surprisingly Ineffective Performance			
Best Overall Tantrum			
Most Effective Rant at the DS			
Most Effective Rant at Own Peers			
Best After-Hours Performance			
Best Display of a Striking Ignorance of Own Doctrine			
Best Display of a Striking Ignorance of Enemy Doctrine			
Best Slave-Driver Act by a COS/G3			
Least Effective Involvement in Plan Development by a Commander			
Most Ambiguous Instructions to a Staff			
Best Support to Peers While DS Watching			
Best Support to Peers Without DS Watching			
Most Effective While Sitting in the Corner			
Walks on Water			
Walks on Backs of Peers			
Best Talc Bitch.			
Poorest Support to Own Peers, a.k.a., MINERVA (When Hell Freezes Over)			