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Combined Force Operations, Past, Current And Future Expectations

WO2 Istvan Gobanyi

United States Army Sergeants Major Academy

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Mr. Mike Artis

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Disadvantages of the Combine Forces Operations

Everything has advantages and disadvantages to include combined force operations. Within the next few paragraphs we will discuss some of the major disadvantages to conducting combined force operations.

Every participating nation is required to supply and sustain themselves in combined force operations. This can be a tremendous challenge when considering the forward deployed theater of operations. This means nations spend money on transportation, supply and sustainment operations indefinitely during sustained operations. According to the experts, this type of sustained operation would be better funded if the participants combined their supply requirements together. Nowadays, it looks like that problem is getting solved through joint ventures while forward deployed. The use of common items such as batteries, fuel, and ammunition alone are just a few examples.

The other part of this issue is the number of the operations any one nation sustains at any given time. The participation in numerous operations is currently not a shared budget of more than any one given nation. If military force expenditures were indeed a shared cost, nations may indeed have the ability to sustain any given operation over a longer period of time. Currently, the United States is leading the funding for both OIF and OEF.

Participating in combined force operations means different priorities for different nations. Every nation wants to achieve their own goals at the end of the operation. The different goals and alignments can have an affect on these operations. Those countries, who participate in the

mission, are conscience of their counterparts and fully aware of the overall outcome of any one particular operation. Sometimes they use other countries to achieve their set goals.

These differences make the operations more difficult and at times become a longer, more drawn out operation. Because of the different goals and priorities of these nations, they do not concentrate or focus their priorities in the same manner. Each nation or contributing military force may have different priorities than their counterparts. Each participating military force may have the ability to perform certain operations more effectively than the other. This force may be more skilled at the execution stage of any particular operation in which they can execute a mission faster and more accurately. These concentration differences can tend to make the entire operation longer and more difficult.

Currently, there are many nation states that require outside assistance. They cannot solve their problems on their own and require assistance in the form of humanitarian aid or military force. This is the most important reason of the combined force operations. This quest to provide assistance to nations in need is natural. Participating in more and more operations has at times, caused stress to our military forces abroad. Although this issue of being overstretch has come to light, particular attention must be paid to the long recovery required to stand our military back on its' feet. To recover from years of deployments abroad.

Each nation which is spreading its strength and providing assistance worldwide is also becoming weaker and weaker. The requirement to concentrate on different missions on different continents can and may become our greatest challenge. These different missions are spreading the nation as well. The rest of the nation supports the operation, while others do not. It could be dangerous as well while the support for our military on the home-front weakens. Soldiers who

participate in these missions hear and understand the news and opinions about these various conflicts worldwide. This knowledge can have a huge effect on their performance.

When conducting combined force operations, each nation involved must adhere to and respect the other nation's traditions, laws and habits and culture. We must pay particular attention to these issues as well during the operation planning process. In the execution of operations, these factors pay vast dividends to the length and outcome of any operation. Sometimes we have to change our tried and tested procedures, and are required to train and adapt to new ones. This type of training and awareness tend to make the pre-deployment process longer.

These factors of combined force operations can effect negatively on the moral of the Soldiers as well. One aspect of this is the differences between the armed forces involved. Differences in supply, equipment and other factors of the operation can destroy the moral. Each nation is funded differently than the other which leads to technological differences in the ability to perform various types of operations. Meaning one military force may be better prepared to execute an operation than another.

National military strategy, current global security demands, and reality requires that the armed forces are prepared to conduct the full range of military operations in concert with the militaries of other nations. Joint Vision 2010 puts it this way: "It is not enough just to be joint when conducting future operations. We must find the most effective methods for integrating and improving interoperability with allied and coalition partners. Although our armed forces will maintain decisive unilateral strength; we expect to work in concert with allied and coalition forces in nearly all of our future operations, and increasingly, our procedures, programs, and planning must recognize this reality" (Clark, 2003).

The best evidence for the differences and challenges within combined force operations is the NATO Respond Forces (NRF), in Europe. According to James Jones, "The NRF is a high-end outfit," Jones said, "And the units that are certified for the NRF will have to be fully interoperable. "If we can't make it fit in the NRF, then it will not certify it for utilization. This is a prime example of tools or techniques implemented to ensure combined force operations become a smooth flowing machine with interoperability throughout.

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