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History and Background of Combined Force Operations

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Individual Haines Paper Outline (Combined Force Operations)

1. I am providing the following individual outline as a working document for my individual Haines Paper (Combine Force Operations).

Thesis: As the United States prosecutes the Global War on Terrorism Combined Force Operations will increase in importance and become integral to U.S. and world security.

I. History and background of Combined Force Operations and the United States

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B. The need for Combined Force Operations

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## History and Background of Combined Force Operations

The United States has participated in Combined Force Operations throughout its history. Combined Force Operations have ensured the survival of a fledgling country, established a global empire, and then set the stage for the spread of America's national interests. This paper will explore the background of the United States' Combined Force Operations including the need for such operations in the past, major countries and organizations that have partnered with the U.S., successful Combined Force Operations and their impact, and lastly, the necessity of these operations in the future. As the United States prosecutes the Global War on Terror (GWOT) Combined Force Operations will increase in importance and become integral to U.S. and world security.

The United States has identified the need for and participated in Combined Force Operations since its inception. It could be argued that the U.S. would not have survived as a country without the military support of France. A French declaration of war on Britain, the weight of the French Navy and the infusion of French volunteers into the Continental Army allowed GEN Washington to transition from fighting to preserve his own army to a campaign plan that actively engaged the British forces. A navel victory by the French combined with adept maneuvering by GEN Washington trapped the British forces at Yorktown, Virginia and forced the British military to seek a negotiated settlement of the American Revolution. So, within two years of its formation, the fledgling United States had learned the need for Combined Force Operations and would maintain this tactic as it faced adversaries at home and abroad.

Combined Force Operations would continue to be part of the American military tradition, but would be refined after the Spanish-American War as the United States found itself embroiled in police actions throughout the world, but most notably in Latin America, the Caribbean, and

the Philippines. The American Armed Forces participated in 38 military interventions between 1890 and the start of World War One (Grossman, 2001). During these operations they would establish a pattern of immediately focusing on the rebuilding of the local army and police forces using American NCO's and Officers in key positions, and then using those forces as part of a Combined Force Operation and campaign to pacify insurgent groups and prepare that country to defend itself against insurgents as well as outside forces.

America continues to utilize Combined Force Operations around the world since the fall of the Soviet Union. As we reached out to former Warsaw Pact countries we have conducted numerous operations and training events with these countries establishing a precedent for multi-nation operations that has paid off tremendously in places like Bosnia, Kosovo, and Afghanistan.

The United States has had many partners in the conduct of Combined Force Operations during its short history. Historically, Great Britain, Canada, and France have frequently participated in Combined Forces Operations in pursuit of joint interests worldwide. Additionally, the nations that are members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization have and continue to participate in multi-national exercises around the globe in order to improve the military readiness and ability of the nations involved. Exercises such as REFORGER paved the way for post Cold War Combined Force Operations with countries such as Poland, Romania, and Hungary that have directly impacted our operations in the GWOT. With the advent of the GWOT our partnerships in Combined Force Operations around the world have dramatically changed. While some of our more traditional partners have redefined their roles or dropped out completely, other countries have stepped in to take their place. Countries such as Japan, Georgia, and Poland have dramatically expanded both their participation in current operations as well as their willingness to participate in future operations in order to help secure their national

interests.

The United States has participated in many successful Combined Force Operations; typically American leaders have worked in order to ensure the success of their coalition partners. The defense of South Korea is a great example of a Combined Force Operation. Twenty two countries participated in the Korean War on the United Nations side (Evanhoe, 2007). The ability of Americans to coordinate the efforts of so many partners as well as the sacrifice of those countries is why South Korea is the economic and regional power it is today.

Operation Desert Shield/Storm is another example of a well executed Combined Force Operation. The United States, building on lessons learned during the Cold War from exercises such as REFORGER, BRIGHT STAR, and FOAL EAGLE, was able to build a multi-national coalition that included such non-traditional partners like Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen. This union was able to defeat 43 Iraqi divisions in the defense ("Iraqi Army"), a seemingly impossible task had it not been for the previous experience of the American Armed Forces in working with other nation's militaries. The liberation of Kuwait has resulted in the establishment of close ties with several Arab nations and continued joint military ventures.

America conducted a Combined Force Operation with its NATO partners in order to restore peace to the countries of Bosnia and Kosovo. These countries, racked by civil war and genocide, had multiple factions with a variety of equipment and abilities fighting to gain control of key areas and to settle historic grievances involving ethnic, religious and cultural differences. NATO was able to build two coalitions that saved these countries with a minimum of violence. Both countries were reclaimed from the ravages of ethnic cleansing by a community of concerned nations and have reassumed their place as members of the European community.

Combined Force Operations will continue to be necessary as part of the Global War On

Terror. Training and working side by side with other nation-states militaries will be an integral part of defeating insurgents throughout the world. The United States military as part of the GWOT conducts Combined Force Operations focused on both training and educating host nations militaries. These operations in places like the Philippines and the Horn of Africa are essential in denying safe havens to terrorists. We as a nation have vowed to pursue terrorist organizations that threaten America anywhere in the world. To accomplish this goal we must be able to conduct operations with the host nation military.

Our commitment to the destruction of terrorist cells worldwide ensures that we must work with a variety of nations and organizations. Combined Force Operations have been an important part of America's past and have included a number of countries. The United States Armed Forces have participated in many successful Combined Force Operations that have helped to shape the modern world. Lastly, it will be essential for the United States to conduct Combined Forces Operations in order to successfully prosecute the Global War On Terror as well as to deny safe havens for terrorist's organizations world-wide.

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References

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