

Introduction

This month's author interview is with CPT Michael Burgoyne and CPT Albert Marckwadt Co authors of *The Defense of Jisr Al Doreaa*. A modern version of the Defense of Jisr Al Dorea. When you explore the Member created publications, posted there is the OPD's developed by CPT Burgoyne to compliment the work.

The PR Team

Body

PR Can you tell us a little about yourselves? How long have you known each other?

MLB: I am an Armor Officer, I was a Tank Platoon Leader, Scout Platoon Leader and Executive Officer in the 3rd ACR. I deployed to Iraq with First Squadron as the S4 in 2003. Following ACCC I was assigned to 3-7 CAV, 2d BDE, 3d ID. I performed as the Adjutant and PAO and then commanded C Troop during a second deployment to Iraq. Currently I am an Observer/Controller on the Cobra Team at NTC. Jim and I have known each other since we were platoon leaders at Fort Carson and he has always been a sounding board for me whenever I work out a hard problem or execute a tough mission.

AJM: Mike and I first met while we both served in 1st Squadron, 3rd ACR, we were both Tank and then Scout Platoon Leaders in the same Squadron. I left to be an XO in Fort Knox for 2-81 AR. We met up again, attended ACCC together along with CAS3 and Cavalry Leaders Course. During OIF III we deployed in the same Squadron, where I served as the S4. Upon our return I took command of B TRP, 3-7 CAV, and then deployed in support of OIF V. Mike is a true visionary and together we have both greatly improved our tactical and decision making skills, especially since counter-insurgency operations have revolutionized the Army's way of thinking.

PR How did you both come to be interested in Counter-insurgency?

MLB: I had read books about Vietnam in High School and as a Cadet but I wasn't focused on the execution of counter-insurgency necessarily; I was more interested in war and the experience of combat. My first real interest in the conduct of counter-insurgency was in 2003 during 1/3 ACR's initial occupation of Al Anbar. As the S4 and the Field Ordering Officer I dealt with the Iraqis on pretty much a daily basis. I wasn't doing the open desert zone recons or in stride breaches I had been training for as a Lieutenant. When I got to Fort Knox for the Career Course I started looking for manuals and books on fighting an insurgency and fighting in urban terrain.

AJM: My first exposure in a counter-insurgency fight came as a child when living in Peru during the Eighties where the Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso) controlled most of Peru. I witnessed a country that was ravaged with terror turn itself around and develop both a strong democracy and economy, all while destroying arguably one of the strongest terrorist groups in the world. I have always been amazed at the country's success and I believe a lot of the fundamentals apply around the world.

PR How long have you both been involved in this field?

MLB: I've been looking at counter-insurgency since 2003. Initially I was a junior Captain who realized he was in a different kind of fight. Then I was a Commander trying to apply what I had read. Now I'm training units at NTC and passing on some lessons I learned the hard way over the last few years.

AJM: Ever since the beginning of the Iraq war I have been trying to learn as much as I can about counter-insurgency, but not until OIF III in 2005 did I truly begin to understand which techniques worked best. As an S4 and a member of a MiTT team I witnessed what TTP's successful Commanders, Mike specifically, implemented. As a MiTT team member I began to understand the elements required to train and implement a security force, a tool that was extremely important when setting up the Sons of Iraq program during OIF V.

PR How did the idea for *The Defense of Jisr Al Doreaa* come about?

MLB: Jim and I have referred back to the Defense of Duffer's Drift on multiple occasions when we debate tactics and officer training. During 2005 one of my platoons occupied a small outpost for several months. One day in Savannah, it just hit Jim and I that adapting Duffer's Drift to Iraq and our experiences would be a great tool for junior officers and small unit leaders. When I came to NTC I finally had the time and motivation to put the project together.

AJM: During my train up for OIF V, a few months prior to deploying I conducted an OPD with my Lieutenants based on the Defense of Duffer's Drift, an OPD that I copied from my Commander when I was a Platoon Leader, which truly made me understand the complexities of making the right decision.

Mike and I had a conversation immediately after where we discussed the importance of relaying important lessons learned to the bright new Lieutenants preparing for deployments. We both agreed that the Duffers Drift format was the perfect format to convey counter-insurgency lessons.

PR How much influence did The Defense of Duffers Drift have on the book?

MLB: It is the foundation of Jisr Al Doreaa. We knew that Duffer's Drift was an efficient and easy way for students of military tactics to learn. Additionally, Duffer's Drift is also a book about counter-insurgency, the book is based on the Boer War and Swinton's character Backsight Forethought is also facing an enemy with no distinct front lines.

PR Was there a premise behind writing the Defense of Jisr Al Doreaa?

MLB: My motivation for writing the book was watching Platoon Leaders struggle with counter-insurgency while at the NTC. It was difficult for me to figure out how to do the basics as a Platoon Leader and it is even harder now. Platoon leaders are expected to learn quickly and execute under combat conditions. The lack of experience compounds the issue because doctrine and professional reading becomes daunting. Jisr Al Doreaa is designed to give them a quick and easy way to comprehend a compilation of the most critical COIN tenants.

AJM: There are a ton of books and manuals that address counter-insurgency, however most of them address the lessons and techniques in a theoretical form and focused at the Company level and above. Jisr Al Doreaa allows the reader to understand what a Platoon Leader faces and experience lessons through trial and error without having to go through them in real life. Overall, it reinforces what a Platoon Leader instinctively knows is right by focusing on the fundamentals and thereby preparing him or her to succeed without making the basic mistakes most of us made while serving as a Platoon Leader.

PR Were there any other works that influenced you both during the writing of the work?

MLB: I leaned heavily on several sources.

- David Kilcullen Twenty-Eight Articles
- General David H. Petraeus Observations from Soldiering in Iraq
- John A. Nagl Learning to Eat Soup with a Knife
- Mao Tse-Tung On Guerrilla Warfare
- Che Guevara Guerrilla Warfare
- T.E. Lawrence Seven Pillars of Wisdom
- The NTC uses a set of COIN fundamentals that also give a great baseline for conducting COIN operations. They consist of: Negotiations, Cultural Understanding, Language, Counter-IED, Counter-Sniper, Escalation of Force/Rules of Engagement, Search/Detain/Prosecute, Tactical Questioning, Every Soldier a Sensor and Ambassador. I encourage leaders to check out the NTC AKO site and take a look at the products available there.

PR The Defense of Jisr Al Doreaa was completed a year after FM 3-24 was published. Did FM 3-24 have a role in shaping what you both wrote?

MLB: FM 3-24 is an outstanding document and provides a great reference for leaders conducting counter-insurgency. It has been argued that 3-24 is only for the operational or strategic level however,

without a true Battalion and below counter-insurgency manual it is the best available resource. Jisr Al Doreaa helps fill the doctrinal gap for junior counter-insurgency leaders by showing the application of the fundamentals identified in 3-24. Many leaders read or know the fundamentals and they understand that they should be culturally aware or follow the ROE but it's the how and the why that are causing the most confusion. We tried to show how counter-insurgency is executed and why it is executed; I think the fictional format allows readers to bridge the gap between deep academic thinking and real world application.

AJM: FM 3-24 is an excellent manual. As stated in the manual, each counter-insurgency fight is different, so what is most important is the fundamentals and understanding them. Jisr Al Doreaa focuses on the fundamentals and puts together the most essential fundamentals in an easy to learn format for the platoon level and below

PR How much of your experiences as Platoon Leaders and Company Commanders influenced the writing of the book?

MLB: The book for me is a compilation of events that happened, could have happened or should have happened while I was in command.

AJM: The book is based on the fundamentals learned both from myself serving as a Commander and watching successful commanders succeed while deployed.

PR Are there any key moments as either a Platoon Leader or Company Commander that stick out in your mind that you wish you would have had the book for?

MLB: I think the lesson that burns me the most looking back is that "the counter-insurgent should seek to make no new enemies." As Officers we are driven to be proactive and aggressive but the nature of counter-insurgency is such that sometimes executing a raid isn't worth the payoff. Looking back I conducted some raids while in Command that probably alienated the population more than they kept the AIF off guard. Weighing the effect on the population before you act is invaluable.

AJM: One of the key lessons I learned is to not try to solve everything yourself, but to develop relationships with everyone in your area and talk to them and work with them to solve everything. Solve problems with systems that endure, don't do it all yourself. Relationships will help you ID the enemy by developing informant networks, solve electrical problems by establishing an electric council made up of generator owners, improve the economy by establishing market councils through which you can help establish micro loans programs, and improve the security by establishing concerned local groups that can help watch key intersections and infrastructure locations, all systems that will stand the test of time.

PR If you had to give one bit of advice to someone who is currently serving in Iraq or Afghanistan or is soon to deploy what would it be?

MLB: Read up on what you are going to be doing. Counter-insurgency is a thinking man's war and it requires study. Read 3-24, pick some short counter-insurgency books to read, read the history of the country and region, and study the language. Make the time to do it; it's as important as shooting gunnery or executing a field problem.

AJM: Counter-insurgency is all about developing relationships, not just knowing who is who in your area. Just as in the book, the population is the center of gravity.

PR What kind of feedback have you received from the book?

MLB: So far the feedback has been great. I hope that people find it useful and that it serves as a gateway for more professional reading.

PR Are either of you plan on publishing anything in the near future?

MLB: We just recently signed a contract with Chicago University Press to publish Jisr Al Doreaa as a paperback with Duffer's Drift and a foreword written by LTC John A. Nagl.