Editor's Shelf

I must confess to one of my addictions; I am a bibliophile. I am also quite fortunate to be able to surround myself with a goodly number of great books. When I wonder why or how I developed this addiction I am reminded of S.L.A. Marshall's counsel, "Men who can command words to serve their thoughts and feelings are well on their way to commanding men to serve their purposes." Expert at commanding words to do their bidding are our friends at the U.S. Army Center of Military History. A wonderful example of their latest work is Janice E. McKenney's compilation of ***Field Artillery***. This two-volume set is a second edition in the "Army Lineage Series" that was first published in 1985. The update includes new lineages, honors, and heraldic issues of all the Army's field artillery regiments, to include presentations related to Army National Guard units. This work is a must have for anyone interested in the honors and linage associated with the development of field artillery in the United States Army.

In keeping with the theme of organizational foundations is Robert S. Cameron's ***To Fight or Not to Fight? Organizational Trends in Mounted Maneuver Reconnaissance from the Interwar Years to Operation Iraqi Freedom***. Published by the Combat Studies Institute Press at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, it is authored by the Armor branch historian. The book provides readers with insight into the key material, organizational, doctrinal, and training issues associated with the founding and development of reconnaissance and cavalry units in America's Army. The author covers an 80-year period, from horse to vehicular reconnaissance, including the Army's attempt at answering the question couched in the title. The book will be invaluable to those responsible for designing reconnaissance organizations, writing doctrine, or establishing material requirements. It will also bring back a lot of memories to old cavalry soldiers.

A phrase all too often bantered about and misused in today's military is that of "soldier-scholar." Additionally, it is not often that I get the opportunity to share, in this particular feature, a *New York Times* best seller. ***The Unforgiving Minute: A Soldier's Education*** by Craig Mullaney gives me a chance to expound on both. When addressing the true personification of a "soldier-scholar," all too often we forget the individual should have experienced both sides of the equation, and with some distinction. Mullaney, a West Point graduate, Rhodes Scholar, and combat veteran of Afghanistan is the epitome of the phrase. The story of his education and maturation as a cadet and Army officer will bring smiles and head-nods from members of the profession of arms. But what makes this tale truly unique are the stories of the soldiers that Mullaney encounters and engages during his career. The book is an honest and brilliant tale of real life in the American Army. It is a sterling presentation of the struggles, successes, and failures of young men who serve in time of war. Anyone with a genuine concern for the American soldier should read this book.

Ethical and moral conduct in time of conflict is always a difficult subject to master. It is even more difficult for the soldiers and leaders challenged to honorably and faithfully execute their assigned duties. Dick Couch captures the essence of battlefield ethics in ***A Tactical Ethic: Moral Conduct in the Insurgent Battlespace***. The

author focuses the reader on the objective in counterinsurgency operations, the people. He elaborates on how insurgent battlespace can have strategic and moral significance. Couch concludes with a warning that how accountable we are for our own moral failures and omissions in times of conflict often determines whether or not a particular operation will succeed.

Following on the theme of moral and ethical responsibility in war is Danilo Zolo's ***Victors' Justice: From Nuremburg to Baghdad***. Zolo, a leading Italian political and legal philosopher, espouses a thesis based on a direct indictment of the inequalities inherent in the system of international law. He grounds his work on an in-depth historical analysis and philosophical understanding of international justice and judicial precedent. The author highlights the fact that special tribunals have brought such men as Saddam Hussein and Slobodan Milošević to justice, but failed to act in the cases of those responsible for Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, the 78 straight days of bombing in Serbia and Kosovo in 1999, or the atrocities committed in Iraq. Zolo determines that the distinction between the punished and the punisher is merely the difference between winning and losing. This "dual-standard system" is what enables the United States and its allies to wage wars of aggression in the name of humanitarian intervention without fear of judicial repercussion. Whether or not the reader agrees with the author's thesis, *Victors' Justice* will certainly stimulate the intellectual debate surrounding international justice in the modern world.

For those of us that entered the US Army during the Vietnam-era the name J. Lawton Collins has special meaning. General Collins had already established himself as an iconic figure in American military lore by that time, a distinction well earned. H. Paul Jeffers, the former broadcast journalist and author, has produced a masterpiece in ***Taking Command: General J. Lawton Collins, From Guadalcanal to Utah Beach and Victory in Europe***. Biographies have never been one of this reviewer's favorite genres, but this one cannot be ignored. "Lightning Joe" Collins' military career was forever cemented in the annals of American military history by his actions as a commander in the Pacific and European theaters during World War II. From his leadership at Guadalcanal to the victory in Europe, Collins garnered not only the respect of generals and senior officers but also that of the GIs, earning the title "the GI's general." The only thing that makes this wonderful biography less than it rightfully should be is the fact that Jeffers did not live to enjoy its success. A must read for anyone who cares about soldiers, leaders, and the history of America's Army.

Our final book in this feature is Leigh Armistead's ***Information Operations Matters: Best Practices***. The author presents what he advertises as a relatively new look at the activities associated with information operations (IO) and how they impact warfare, diplomacy, and business. Armistead identifies two "significant gaps" between the theory and reality of the federal bureaucracy to support such operations. He lauds the development of strategic policy and doctrine for the conduct of IO activities and campaigns, but adroitly identifies the fact that most of these operations are still conducted at the tactical level across American government. Despite detailing specific recommendations to overcome these gaps the author fails to provide anything revolutionary. In fact, a careful review of his sources will tell the knowledgeable reader that this is more of a history of information operations than a contemporary primer. Well presented and researched this work will be of interest to individuals researching the roll of information operations in American government. – RHT ❑