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U.S. Army, Strategist

The Role of the Military Strategist



Agenda



- Career Background
- Decision to become a Strategist
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- Analyze the Strategic Environment
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- Coalition Strategy: Ph.D.
- Intersection of Politics and Strategy
- Speaking Truth to Power
- How to Be a Successful Strategist
- Value your Teammates
- Q&A



Career Background



- M1A1 Tank Platoon Leader: Tactical level Combined Arms Maneuver (CAM)



- Institutional Army Strategist
- Speechwriter to Army Chief of Staff
- Strategic Advisor to ISAF Commander
- Future Army Concept Developer
- Special Operations Command Strategist



- M1A1 Tank Company Executive Officer (XO) – two assignments



- Deputy J5 (Plans, Policy & Strategy)
- Joint Strategic Planner at CENTCOM
- Deputy Commander's Action Group (CAG) at CENTCOM



- Brigade S-3 Plans Officer
- Battalion S-3/S-5/S-1 Officer
- Cavalry Troop Commander



- Chief of Plans for Contingency Operations (U.S. Army Europe)



Decision to Become a Strategist



Internship at
U.S. Department
of State



Internship at U.S. Embassy
in London, UK



Internship at White House,
Office of National Drug
Control Policy



Assisted Iraqis Develop City
Budget

“American strategy for Iraq consists of three basic tenets: clear, hold, and build. U.S. ground forces have been successful in clearing and holding key areas in Iraq; however, the last tenet, build, as of February 2007 has been the most complicated to implement...no clear linkage has existed between small-unit short-term goals and State Department and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) long-term development goals.”



Education of a Strategist



- **Defense Strategy Course (DSC).** This self-paced, self-development course provides you with an overview of several key issues and concepts regarding National Security Strategy and Policy.
- **Command and General Staff College (CGSC).** CGSC educates, trains and develops leaders for Unified Land Operations in a Joint, interagency, intergovernmental, and multinational operational environment; and advances the art and science of the Profession of Arms in support of Army operational requirements.
- **Advanced Civil Schooling (ACS).** Program for mid-career officers to attend civilian graduate school programs. I attended the Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington, D.C.
- **Basic Strategic Arts Program (BSAP).** BSAP educates officers and Department of Army Civilians and graduates them equipped with the tools and perspective to bridge the gap between their tactical/operational background and the challenges of operating at the grand-strategic and theater-strategic level of war and policy. Moreover, the graduation completes most officers' transition from their basic branches to the Functional Area 59, Army Strategists.



Three Primary Lanes

Army Strategists (Functional Area 59 officers) deliver winning, innovative solutions to address the complex challenges of the contemporary security environment. Through specialized education, training, and experience, Strategists develop expertise in creating, implementing, and articulating strategies and become adept at leading operational and institutional campaign planning.

Institutional Strategy

- Strategy and Policies on recruiting, training, and equipping the Army
- Doctrine and Concept Developments

Operational Strategy

- Army Operational and Strategic Plans
- Joint Operational and Strategic Plans
- Coalition Operational and Strategic Plans

Applied Strategy

- Speechwriting
- Policy Advisor
- CAG Assignments
- Teaching



Institutional vs. Operational





Analyze the Strategic Environment



Example – Analysis of Russia

Geography: Largest country by landmass that makes it vulnerable to attack. 2,000 KM of flat plains (Tank Country) from Russia's European borders that extends through Ukraine, Poland, and Germany (Fulda Gap). Lacks sufficient warm water ports.

History: Invaded by West (Napoleon and Hitler), Invaded by Asia (Golden Horde), Personal History (Putin in E. Germany as Cold War ended).

Economics: A country of ~120 million with a GDP smaller than Canada (~36 million people). Economy is commodity based (oil, gas, wheat, and minerals, and weapons).

Technology: Development of cyber weapons, hypersonic missiles, and other weapons of war.

Russian Perspective



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Source:

<https://worldview.stratfor.com/article/geopolitics-russia-permanent-struggle>



Advising “The Prince” and Civil-Military Relations





Coalition Strategy: Ph.D.



- **Bachelor's Degree: Tactical/Operational/ and Army Warfighting Strategy**
- **Master's Degree: Joint Strategy and Warfighting**
- **Ph.D.: Coalition Strategy and Warfighting**

Intersection of Politics and Strategy

“The distinction between politics and strategy diminishes as the point of view is raised. At the summit true politics and strategy are one.”

Winston Churchill
UK Prime Minister
during WWII

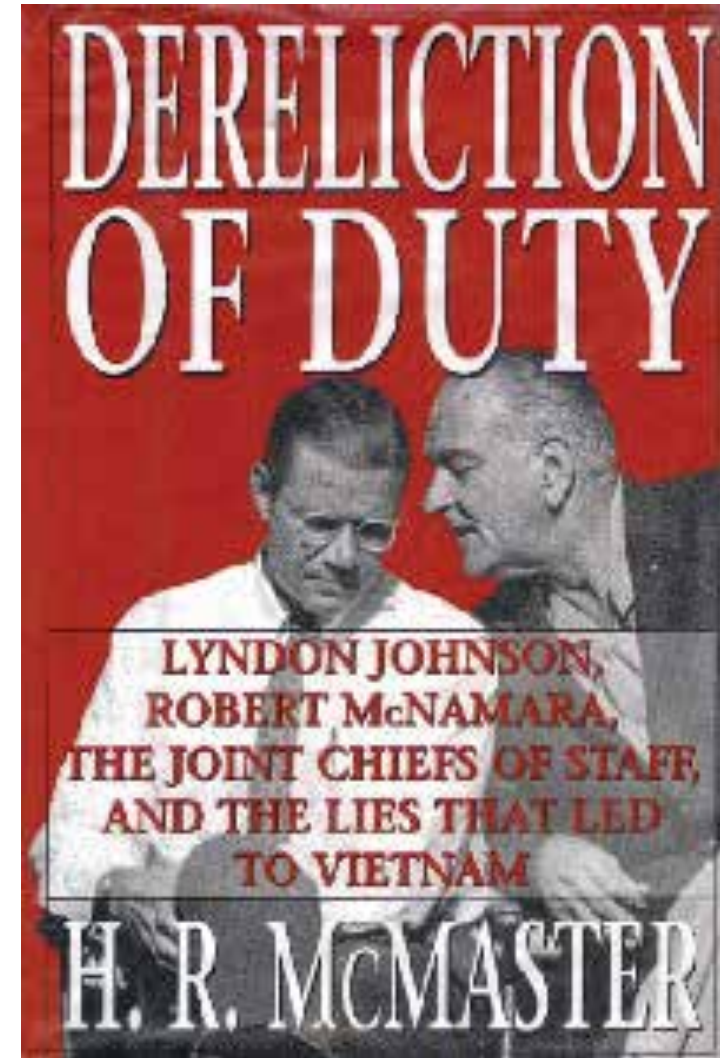




Speaking Truth to Power



- You are expected to speak truth to power even when it is uncomfortable.
- Never argue with emotions, only argue with “facts” and sound analysis.
- Be respectful but firm.
- If you don’t, no one else will and the consequences could lead to someone getting hurt or dying!

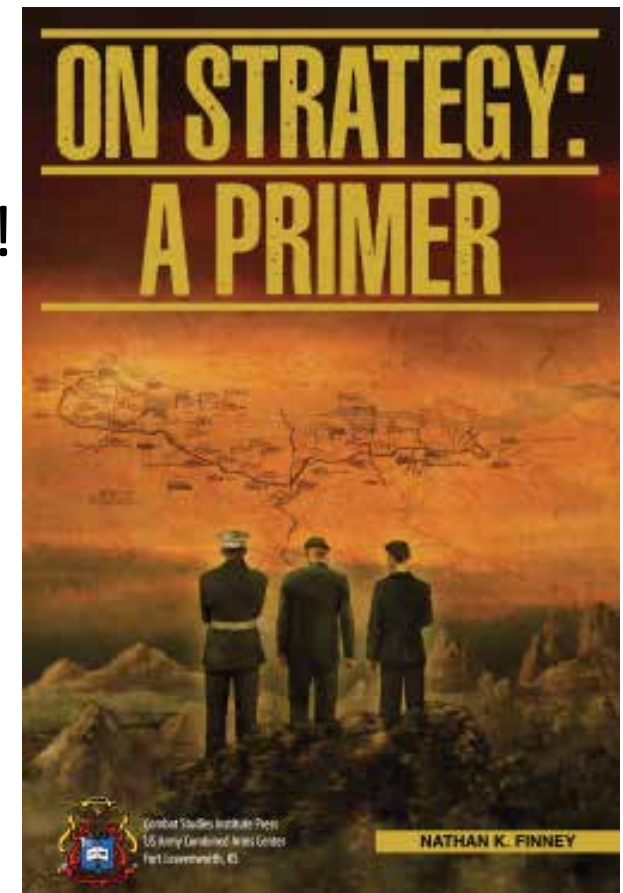




How to Be a Successful Strategist



- Never Stop Learning
- Read, Read, and Read Some More!
- Write and Publish
- Be a Valued Team Player
- Find a Mentor and Be a Mentor





Value Your Teammates!



Captain America



AMERI-CAN DAY



Captain Canuck



In Celebration of the Great
North American Federation

There is no specific day to
celebrate because everyday is
'MERI-CAN DAY!





Questions