



## THE FUTURE MILLENNIUM FORCE

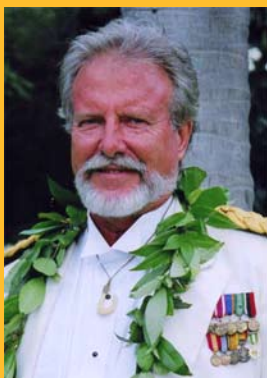
### READINGS FROM THE FIRST EARTH BATTALION THINK TANK

by Jim Channon

**Editor's Note:** The FIRST EARTH BATTALION was called into being during the early 1980's by TASK FORCE DELTA at the Army War College to give the Army a way to see its full potential as an instrument of the future.

The charge was "to think the unthinkable."

This mythological force has functioned as a free service think tank to the Army ever since. As an instrument of creative thinking it has found its way into various current Army projects. Most recently, principle Academy Fellow **Jim Channon**, Lt. Colonel, US Army (Ret.), visually summarized the OBJECTIVE FORCE WARRIOR findings and teamed up with Army Chief of Staff Pete Schoomaker to open the mindset of future Army leaders at the School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS) course at Command and General Staff College (CGSC). Jim also helped shape the future vision efforts of the new Secretary of the Army using his summarizing strategic graphics techniques.



Jim has led the World Business Academy fellows for three years on a quest to create the most positive future vision for the planet for the next 100 years. There is a direct correspondence between the academy's vision and focus on the "whole planet" and the efforts of the world's most effective action agent and institution, the United States Army.

Welcome to our future potential:

GLOBAL NATURAL SECURITY



Between the crack of time and the fold of space there is an impulse to seek the fullness of life. Let there be the slipstream of knowing that penetrates in the flash of an eye to the core of the prize. Let that edge of knowing blaze a trail of pure magic for the spiritual warriors of the galaxy to rise again in the grist of the great surge forward and strike the banner of pure heart into the midst of the fury and bring her all – home again.

We have gone from village to tribe ... and from tribe to region ... and from region to nation ... and from nation to power block ... and it is now time to go from power block to planet.

There is no more capable or more soundly directed structure on the planet than the



combined military forces now serving nations to make that move possible.

People of the world ... regain your right to peace on a planet that you can still develop before it has lost its capacity to bear you on its shoulders.  
The time is now!



## International Military Teamwork and Whole Systems Strategies

There exist real global stability strategies designed to cooperatively prevent a totally conflict-ridden world. They need more examination and prototyping. The approaches below are formed on the basic understanding that healthy groups of people do not resort to violence. If people are psychologically or physically compromised they often seek to solve their problems through conflict. The question is, then, how should the cooperating body of nations best respond to this situation using its conflict prevention intelligence?

### THE TOPICAL TREATMENT

We know, and it is the basis for gap theory, that unsavory characters operating with misguided intentions can threaten the security and livelihood of other unprepared nations or groups. So, we must collectively seek to contain or excise them from the picture. This is like surgically removing a pre-cancerous wart. Sometimes it may be necessary, but it is too ugly and too late.

### THE REPAIR MODEL

We notice by reading the United Nations challenges and goals that they are focusing on stabilizing our collective well-being by salvaging the least effective parts of the whole. They use the assistance of the most healthy parts. This involves first aid and police action and in the long run may not be sufficient.

### THE CONSTITUTIONAL HEALTH MODEL

The World Business Academy looks at the opportunity to strengthen the whole in a simultaneous fashion. Occasionally we may mend the parts. In this way a healthy whole actually diminishes the likelihood of having more compromised parts. In the long run this is more than stabilizing. It is rejuvenating.

Let us consider the unified teamwork model using our most capable and available forces ... the militaries of the world!



## OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

I believe that advocates of any high performance technology would say that the constitutional model is a must and then the others follow as needed and as affordable. More evaluation may be necessary.

Today we see these trends: multi-national force cooperation; stabilization as a new constant; prevention as a preferred option; and the steadily deteriorating global environment. We can now opt to focus on RECOVERING AND REJUVENATING the deteriorating playing field while still keeping some of the players under check. Otherwise every global citizen will live a steadily more compromised existence ... or slow death. The newest threat on the horizon is a degraded atmosphere with thousands of new toxins that subtly degrade the human organisms that are swimming amongst us. The same degradation is also true for the water and the land. It is a formula for slow death. The people who suffer from this multi-factoral attack most directly will then be candidates for uprisings and unrest. In Africa and parts of Asia we already see the discontent among the dead spots pocking the surface of the earth. The people die, but not before they take the land and the water with them.

## THE REAL & MOST AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITY

Imagine a global task force composed of all branches of every nation's armed service functioning with a prevention strategy:

**ARMIES** would resurface the land with the kinds of botanical forests that better feed and shelter people while returning to the planet the moisture barrier that we have lost due to air pollution and clear cutting. They would replant a trillion trees in five years with soil remediation as a systematized by-product. The watersheds would get cleaned apace.

**NAVIES** would police the oceans to control over-fishing and then kickstart the hatchery processes necessary to restock the seas with the primary foodstuffs and resources that now are so rapidly disappearing. The shore-based marines and coast guard would work on coral recovery and inland and shoreline sanctuaries for waterlife.

**AIR FORCES** would complement the new ground-based SensorNet monitoring system with current and improved airborne detection systems. In effect they would become the global pollution early warning system. Air forces would improve the rapid global transport of emergency aid, environmental cavalry, and refugee resources.

Notice the similarity of the tasks to present day capabilities. We have already practiced the global combined forces interface during similar disaster recovery missions and combined forces combat. Imagine what could have happened in the recent tsunami in the Indian Ocean if combined and practiced military teams had been available worldwide to swarm on the solution.



It's time to model such a Global Natural Security (GNS) concept and design the parameters for its implementation, even as a contingency plan. The implications for science are great and they would realign with new major global challenges.

## POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS FOR SCIENCE

We will need:

- A new, light, fast set of environmentally active tools to revitalize a village system.
- Forest renovation systems that complement our combat systems vehicles.
- Water recovery systems.
- Fish hatcheries at sea and fish pond tools for the coastal and riparian regions.
- An integrated sensor network for environmental assessment.
- A new family of strategic land-crafting tools.

All of these systems also have a combat value that falls within the normal range of combat engineering missions.

## SUMMARY

**There are no real shortcuts to the environmental reconstruction of our planet. Unless we act, there will be nothing else important to discuss.**

## BACKGROUND

### NEW PARADIGM WAR PREVENTION

In the 1980s we spoke of the combined arms team as the potent integration of combat and combat support elements to win the day as the war-fighting arm. What then shall we call the optimum combination of stabilizing forces needed for our war prevention mission (Secretary of the Army's Vision '05) of the new millennium?

Interestingly enough there are now enough new components so that we can think about how to synergize them for a new optimum kind of stability operation. This is similar in concept to a combined arms approach: an ideal sequence of employment/deployment and an ideal sequence of intervention.

Just to mention some of the new mix of Options, let's zoom down to the level of a Special Forces A team or what might become known as an Eco-Cavalry Unit.



## **SAMPLE SMALL UNIT EXAMPLE**

### **FORCE COMPOSITION**

Stability Operations Using Principles of Natural Security and Combat of the Collective Conscience.

- SensorNet
- Remote observation and viewing
- Eco-force rescue teams (Earth Battalions)
- Non-lethal weapons
- Stress control battalions
- Advanced civil affairs
- Satellite broadcasting
- Psionics
- Global emergency response

### **Situation in Year 2012**

So, the scenario unfolds. Dirty water begins to wear down the resolve of local villagers. There are crop failures and pollution. The regional response of the local government is inadequate. There is unrest and the beginnings of an insurgency erupt. So, what is the combination and sequence of stabilizing elements we use?

For the purposes of example, here is a type of potent combination we might consider.

**SENSORNET:** Our global environmental monitoring system can alert us to potential areas of pollution and unrest.

**REMOTE VIEWING AND UAV RESOURCES:** We confirm the situation with a Special Forces back-up as needed. Here we assess both the capability of the nascent insurgency and the actual capacity they have to rectify their problems.

**ECO-FORCE RESCUE:** An Earth Battalion is deployed. Using a lightning-quick alternative set-up of all basic systems, they provide alternative basic water, power, and some broadcast education modules, and are out in two days. This intervention is meant to be impermanent and provides an example of what can be done to delay any emergency. Broadcast monitors left in place use only graphical cartoon instruction so that people can learn to help themselves.

**NON-LETHAL WEAPONS:** Should some of the local force resist we would use the most benign but appropriate non-lethal weapons to dissuade them. Subsequently we are in a position to empower them.

**STRESS CONTROL BATTALIONS:** We employ the "BRAIN RANGERS" for soft interventions in troubled areas. This includes modern stress control technologies to civilize the situation while new organized stability can be achieved with advanced light infrastructure.



**ADVANCED CIVIL AFFAIRS:** In selected cases where they have suffered a loss in organization and authority we could insert an appropriate coaching team to stabilize the decision-making process.

**SATELLITE BROADCAST:** Once the monitors are in place a continuous wave of evening entertainment and environmental instruction could be made available including:

**PSIONICS:** Public awareness and courtesy will be projected into the needed areas. Necessary deception will be employed to stabilize the unruly elements. Energy field technology may be necessary with mental projection or sprays as necessary.

There are obviously hundreds of tactics and techniques that need attention for this to be optimally perfected. But, this is to make a case for a new paradigm of combined stability force operations. And perhaps that is the name for them. The synergies sought after model the synergy of the combined arms team but using other pacifying means.

## **About the author: Who is Jim Channon?**

This letter sent between two Army scholars describes Academy Fellow **Jim Channon:**

Dear [name omitted, a Lt. Colonel at Harvard],

Jim Channon is the man I mentioned at the Patraeus talk.

I want to give you some background of his connection and value.

BG (Ret) [Frank Akers](#) mentioned "everyone needs a Jim Channon in their organization" during the Eisenhower Series we all went to last July during inprocessing. Akers was the MC for the event. He runs the strategic programs at the national Labs at Oakridge.



When GEN Schoomaker retired, he teamed with two other retirees and developed a "Leading Change" seminar for SAMS. This team brings Jim Channon into the seminar to open the minds of the SAMS student to go beyond traditional concepts.

Jim led four or five rifle platoons in Vietnam during multiple tours.

He is an artist and a communicator who sees a fully inter-connected world whose common military assists the world to remain peaceful and ecologically sound - "A sustainable Mother-Ship."

In the late 1970s, Training & Doctrine Command's GEN Starry convened a think tank to project the operating environment 30 years distant. This "Futures" effort yielded several concepts. One of these was Project Delta (the name of the team w/o any unit reference). Delta came up with "The First Earth Battalion (FEB)."

FEB is designed to fulfill a grand strategic purpose that goes beyond nation. This level of purpose is the defining crux of the futures effort - to stretch the potential.

I followed up on Akers' comment and contacted Jim Channon earlier this year. I then traveled to CGSC to take part in the Leading Change seminar that Schoomaker continues to participate in, along with Jim Channon. I had several hours with Jim before he departed. I found him to be an amazing visionary who can add tremendous value to any organization trying to define its future.

Jim has some PSYOP concepts and has even sketched these out using his artist side of communicating ideas. These concepts may be worthy of further study. Certainly, having Jim as a mentor for the Special Operations Command Futures is an angle that merits action.

You can view his current work and GoPlanet vision by checking out his web site [www.jimchannon.com](http://www.jimchannon.com).

[Name deleted]

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