



EL GRITO DEL CUERVO THE CRY OF THE CROW

A History Lesson

Special points of interest:

- Come Join us at the Annual Awards Luncheon on 11 October from 11:20 a.m. to about 1:00 p.m. Sign up at our home-page at "<http://www.bmcaoc.org>" or contact Amy Cameron at 509-7440.
- Don't forget to select 3185 on your CFC donation card.

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Recently, I was asked to look at the recent events through the lens of military history. I have joined the cast of thousands who have written an "open letter to Americans."

Dear friends and fellow Americans

Like everyone else in this great country, I am reeling from last week's attack on our sovereignty. But unlike some, I am not reeling from surprise. As a career soldier and a student and teacher of military history, I have a different perspective and I think you should hear it.

This war will be won or lost by the American citizens, not diplomats, politicians or soldiers. Let me briefly explain. In spite of what the media, and even our own government is telling us, this act was not committed by a group of mentally deranged fanatics. To dismiss them as such would be among the gravest of mistakes. This attack was committed by a ferocious, intelligent and dedicated adversary. Don't take this the wrong way. I don't admire these men and I deplore their tactics, but I respect their capabilities. The many parallels that have been made with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor are apropos. Not only because it was a brilliant sneak attack against a complacent America, but also because we may well be pulling our new adversaries out of caves 30 years after we think this war is over, just like my father's generation had to do with the formidable Japanese in the years following WW II.

These men hate the United States with all of their being, and we must not underestimate the power of their moral commitment. Napoleon, perhaps the world's greatest combination of soldier and statesman, stated "the moral is to the physical as three is to one." Patton thought the Frenchman underestimated its importance and said moral conviction was five times more important in battle than physical strength. Our enemies are willing - better said, anxious -- to give their lives for their cause.

How committed are we America? And for how long? In addition to demonstrating great moral conviction, the recent attack demonstrated a mastery of some of the basic fundamentals of warfare taught to most military officers worldwide, namely simplicity, security and surprise. When I first heard rumors that some of these men may have been trained at our own Air War College, it made perfect sense to me.

This was not a random act of violence, and we can expect the same sort of military competence to be displayed in the battle to come. This war will escalate, with a good portion of it happening right here in the good ol' U.S. of A. These men will not go easily into the night. They do not fear us. We must not fear them. In spite of our overwhelming conventional strength as the world's only "superpower" (a truly silly term), we are the underdog in this fight. As you listen to the carefully scripted rhetoric designed to prepare us for the march for war, please realize that America is not equipped or seriously trained for the battle ahead. To be certain, our soldiers are much better than the enemy, and we have some excellent "counter-terrorist" organizations, but they are mostly trained for hostage rescues, airfield seizures, or the occasional "body snatch," (which may come in handy). We will be fighting a war of annihilation, because if their early efforts are any indication, our enemy is ready

14 September, 2001



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The Presidents Corner



On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Billy Mitchell Chapter Association of Old Crows, we want to extend our thoughts and prayers to everyone who has been touched by the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Stan

Hall, a long-time AOC member and senior Raytheon Business Development/Engineer director working in the Washington DC office died tragically while enroute from Washington to Los Angeles on American Airline Flight 77, the aircraft subsequently identified as striking the Pentagon. This attack on our country, our beliefs and our way of life should only increase our resolve and efforts to foster the goals of the AOC to maintain our national security and promote Electronic Defense and Information Superiority.

I would like to congratulate Don Macaulay on his election as the new Billy Mitchell Chapter President. He will do an outstanding job leading the Chapter for the next two years. Please provide him all the excellent support you provided me. Congratulations also to Mike Miller, Lt Col

Robert Franklin, and Sam Roberts on their election as new Board of Directors to the Billy Mitchell Chapter.

The BMC Awards and Installation of Officers luncheon will be on the 11 October 2001 at the Kelly Field Club. We will be providing the information in our newsletter, web site and E-mails. Please join us in welcoming the new President and Board of Directors.

The AOC Board of Directors announced the following Chapters of the Year for 2001. The Billy Mitchell and Dixie Crow tied for the Large Chapter, the Strategic Roost won the Medium Chapter, and the Niagara Frontier Roost won the Small Chapter. Congratulations to all the winning chapters.

This is my last President's Corner and I would like to thank the Board of Directors for their outstanding support during my two years a President of the Billy Mitchell Chapter. I would also like to thank Homer Jeffers for his outstanding Chairmanship of FiestaCrow 2001. In June 2000, I started work at the Physical Science Laboratories, New Mexico State University in Las Cruces New Mexico. I was initially concerned about being able to fulfill my duties as President since I would be out of town during the week. Because of the support provided by the Board of Directors, I was able to complete my tenure as President. Thanks again to the Board Members for their wonderful support. It was a real pleasure to work with you on forwarding the goals and objectives of the Billy Mitchell Chapter.

*Tom White, President
Billy Mitchell Chapter
Association of Old Crows*

Games Night Report– 8 September 2001

Bridge: 2 Grand Slams. Pinochle: Double Run. Dominoes: Giggles and Fun.

After taking the month of August off, games night resumed on **Saturday evening, 8 September 2001**, with 40-of-53 players arriving early for optional social hour and/or optional dinner. At dinner, the majority "pigged out" on a sumptuous seafood buffet.

Games night coordinator **Mary Ann Proctor** wants to especially thank both **Trish Ashton** and **Helen Van Horn** who helped out collecting bridge monies and identifying the evening's winners.

Kudos also to these following lovely ladies for bringing pastries and candies for us to enjoy with our after dinner coffee, tea and other: **Joan Engleking, Mary Hintz, Mary-Ann**

Proctor, Charlene Schneider, Marie Snocker and Helen Van Horn.

BRIDGE. (By **Mary Ann Proctor**). This evening, 40 bridge players really outdid themselves, with really high scores and, count them, two-not-one-but-two grand slams bid and made. The good-and-bad news is that **Mary Hintz & Bodo Konze** engineered the first grand slam of the evening and split the "grand slam pot" money, while, shortly afterward, another 7-bid was made by **Mary Sfair & Jose G. Rodriquez** (alas **Hintz & Konze** has left the pot bare). I know there were some little slams made during the evening, but somehow tally

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and willing to die to the last man.

Eradicating the enemy will be costly and time consuming. They have already deployed their forces in as many as 20 countries, and are likely living the lives of everyday citizens. Simply put, our soldiers will be tasked with a search and destroy mission on multiple foreign landscapes, and the public must be patient and supportive until the strategy and tactics can be worked out.

For the most part, our military is still in the process of redefining itself and presided over by men and women who grew up with - and were promoted because they excelled in - Cold War doctrine, strategy and tactics. This will not be linear warfare, there will be no clear "centers of gravity" to strike with high technology weapons. Our vast technological edge will certainly be helpful, but it will not be decisive.

Perhaps the perfect metaphor for the coming battle was introduced by the terrorists themselves aboard the hijacked aircraft -- this will be a knife fight, and it will be won or lost by the ingenuity and will of citizens and soldiers, not by software or smart bombs.

We must also be patient with our military leaders. Unlike Americans who are eager to put this messy time behind us, our adversaries have time on their side, and they will use it. They plan to fight a battle of attrition, hoping to drag the battle out until the American public loses its will to fight. This might be difficult to believe in this euphoric time of flag waving and patriotism, but it is generally acknowledged that America lacks the stomach for a long fight. We need only look as far back as Vietnam, when North Vietnamese General Vo Nguyen Giap (also a military history teacher) defeated the United States of America without ever winning a major tactical battle. American soldiers who marched to war cheered on by flag waving Americans in 1965 were reviled and spat upon less than three years later when they returned.

Although we hope that Osama Bin Laden is no Giap, he is certain to understand and employ the concept. We can expect not only large doses of pain like the recent attacks, but also less audacious "sand in the gears" tactics, ranging from livestock infestations to attacks at water supplies and power distribution facilities.

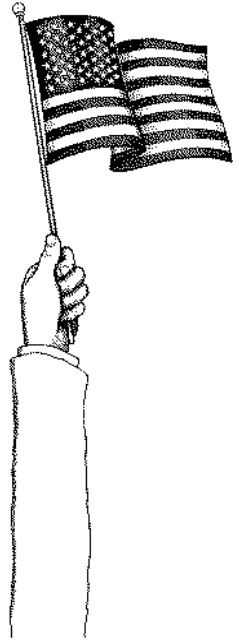
These attacks are designed to hit us in our "comfort zone" forcing the average American to "pay more and play less" and eventually eroding our resolve. But it can only work if we let it.

It is clear to me that the will of the American citizenry - you and I - is the center of gravity the enemy has targeted. It will be the fulcrum upon which victory or defeat will turn. He believes us to be soft, impatient, and self-centered. He may be right, but if so, we must change. The Prussian general Carl von Clausewitz, (the most often quoted and least read military theorist in history), says that there is a "remarkable trinity of war" that is composed of the (1) will of the people, (2) the political leadership of the government, and (3) the chance and probability that plays out on the field of battle, in that order.

Every American citizen was in the crosshairs of last Tuesday's attack, not just those that were unfortunate enough to be in the World Trade Center or Pentagon. The will of the American people will decide this war. If we are to win, it will be because

we have what it takes to persevere through a few more hits, learn from our mistakes, improvise, and adapt. If we can do that, we will eventually prevail.

Everyone I've talked to in the past few days has shared a common frustration, saying in one form or another "I just wish I could do something!" You are already doing it. Just keep faith in America, and continue to support your President and military, and the outcome is certain. If we fail to do so, the outcome is equally certain.



God Bless America!

*Dr. Tony Kern, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
Former Director of Military History,
USAF Academy*

Awards Luncheon

COME AND JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL AWARDS AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS LUNCHEON

11 October 2001

Kelly USA Officers Club

Sign-in 11:20 a.m.

Lunch 11:45 a.m.

**Choice of:
Chicken Cordon Bleu
Or
Chef Salad
Cost
\$6.00 per person**

PROGRAM

**Introduction of AOC Award Winners & Nominees
Introduction of Scholarship Winners
Introduction of Enlisted Tuition Grant (ETG) Winners
BMC Awards
Swe aring-in of the Newly Elected Board Members &
President**

**For Reservations sign up at "http://www.bmcaoc.org" or call Amy Cameron at 509-7440
Please R.S.V.P. by 8 October 2001**

**THE ASSOCIATION OF OLD CROWS
BILLY MITCHELL CHAPTER**

4335 W. Piedras Drive, Suite 203
San Antonio, Texas 78228-1210
(Voice) (210) 73CROWS (732-7697)
(Fax) (210) 738CROW (738-2769)
(E-mail) mail@bmcaoc.org

Newsletter Editor: Don Macaulay
Telephone: (210) 967-4462
Fax: (210) 967-4472
E-mail: usaret@texas.net or
newsletter@bmcaoc.org

PERIODICAL

We're on the web
Http://www.bmcaoc.org

Games Night -8 September 2001

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sheets with this information were lost, so we'll do the next best thing and report the five top finishers, who were: **Mary Sfair** (8,580), **Jose G. Rodriguez** (7,120), **Mary Hintz** (6,410), **Bodo Konze** (5,720) and **Audrey Trautman** (5,450).

DOMINOES ("CrowsFoot" - AKA Chickenfoot - Double Nines). (from notes by **Trish Ashton**). The tile shufflers engaged in two very competitive games, with **Trish Ashton** winning both, but only squeezed past **JoAnne Ector** in one game by one point 67-68 (low score wins). New player **Karen Cosgrove** is still learning the ins-and-outs of the game, but her infectious laughter attests to the fun she has trying.

PINOCHLE (from input by **Steve Bepko** and **Joe London**). The pinochle deity must have been in a generous mood this evening, with no lack of meld at both tables. At Table #1, team **Jane & Steve Bepko** won the first of two games played with **Lorraine & Dave Kilpatrick** 502 to 245. The **Bepkos** were leading in the second game 190 to 88 when the evening ended. A highlight of the first game was on two different bids **Lorraine & Dave** both had runs in the same suit, only to be countered by **Jane & Steve** having similar runs twice. We believe the odds of this happening in one game must be phenomenal.

Table #2 might have well been called the "Social Security" table, with **Mike Cosgrove** starting things off with two consecutive bids of 65 and that being the norm for the rest of the evening with twelve bids of 65, one of 70, one of 75, one of 80 and one of 150. **Mike** pairing with **Joe London** took 2-out-of-3 games from **Mark Ashton & "Dak" Proctor** 396-512, 509-419 and 506-187. In one game **Mark** had double Kings, in another **Joe** had a double run. and in another hand **Mike & Joe** had a combined meld of

115 points. One unique fact observed was that out of a total of 30 hands played in three games, "**Dak**" had a single run only five times the whole evening.

From The Editor

I have received numerous letters, sayings, photographs, statements and opinions from many different sources and considered passing them on to you through this newsletter.

Unfortunately if I were to include them in this month's newsletter it would be more like a book rather than a newsletter. Instead, I elected to include the one article that is on the front page which I believe best sums up our situation.

Since most of the members in the association are either retired or active duty military or civilians who have an interest in the Old Crows I figured you have most likely either heard or seen many of the other articles regarding the belief that we are a free and democratic country who believe in ourselves and our freedom.

Thank you for supporting the association and I hope you have enjoyed reading and gathering information through our newsletter. As your newly elected president, I will do my best to grow the chapter, increase our Educational Foundation worth and in turn increase support to those who require and need it through scholarships and grants.

*By Donald E. Macaulay,
Newsletter Editor & President Elect.*