



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES ARMY TRAINING AND DOCTRINE COMMAND
FORT MONROE, VIRGINIA 23651-5000

July 28, 1993



Mr. John R. Boyd



Dear John:

Enclosed are two excellent articles on Desert Storm that give a good feel for the pace and chaos of land warfare; both authors are now at TRADOC HQ and I have discussed land operations with them.

The official military definition of destroy is to "damage a target so that it cannot function as intended nor be restored to usable condition." In the case of land forces, it doctrinally means to destroy (kill) as defined above, at least 1/3 of opposing armored vehicles. There is no confusion in the Army about what Schwarzkopf meant when he said the VII Corps mission is to destroy the Republican Guard.

With regard to the concept of synchronization, planned air strikes and ATO are much more synchronized in space and time (Army definition of synchronization), than ground operations, which must depend on initiative and decisions of subordinate commanders. Ground combat too confusing and chaotic to be tightly controlled. Army problem with ATO is it isn't responsive enough to rapidly changing conditions on the ground. Inserting information technology systems in ground systems will eliminate much of the confusion; this is under way. Also, much current emphasis at TRADOC on high tempo 24-hour combat operations that will paralyze adversary.

Sincerely,

Paul J. Berenson

Enclosures