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1615 "L" STREET N.W.
SUITE 300
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036-5610

DAVID EVANS
MILITARY AFFAIRS

TELEPHONE
(O) 202/785-9430
(FAX) 202/833-8348
(H) 703/536-4206

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John:

The Army released the latest version of FM 100-5 today, with a briefing by Gen. Sullivan, and with Gen. Franks in attendance.

They are now bruiting a new concept, versatility, which seems more like a policy than a doctrine. As I understand it, under the rubric of versatility, a commander in, say, Europe, must be prepared to go anywhere from the Balkans to Somalia. This has little to do with mental flexibility on the battlefield, and Gen. Sullivan conceded that the concept of synchronization is still in FM 100-5.

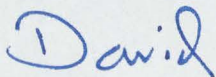
He refused to comment on Burton's article and was obviously very, very pissed. Instead of thinking about the virtues and problems with synchronization, the Army instead has circled the wagons.

This resistance could have been muted if Jim had interviewed Franks and/or his division commanders. I am reminded of the cavalry officer who gave his horses sugar every time they were exposed to the sound of gunfire as a way of conditioning them.

Giving the army generals a little sugar in the form of "face time" would have made them less skittish to the sound of Jim's guns.

Anyway, feel free to use these materials as you deem fit. I am sending a copy of the latest 100-5 to Jim, too.

Regards,



David

