

Supplemental Reading List for Deploying Judge Advocates

This reading list supplements the “Professional Reading List” previously published by The Judge Advocate General’s Corps.

As with the Professional Reading List, this supplemental list is not intended to replace or supersede any reading list published by a Task Force, Brigade Combat Team or other deploying unit. Rather, the articles and books on this list are intended to assist judge advocates on the Road to Deployment.

Comments or suggestions for additions should be directed to the Regimental Historian and Archivist at The Judge Advocate General’s Legal Center and School.

Leadership.

Film: *Restrepo* (2010). Journalist Sebastian Junger and photojournalist Tim Hetherington (recently killed by mortar fire while reporting in Libya) were embedded for a year with a platoon in B Company, 2/503d Infantry, 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team. The documentary follows the lives of the platoon’s soldiers during their 15-month deployment to the Korengal Valley in northeast Afghanistan, and also their return home. By chronicling the reactions of soldiers negotiating with locals, defending Observation Post *Restrepo* and surviving in one of the most dangerous areas in Afghanistan, the film provides leadership insights for those deploying to Afghanistan today since they will face similar challenges. Nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary in 2011. Available on DVD.

Current military history.

Johnson, Robert. *The Afghan Way of War: How and Why They Fight* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011).

Johnson, a former British officer, professor of history at Oxford University, and expert on war in Central and South West Asia, has written a book about Afghanistan’s conflicts since the early 1700s. The central theme of this excellent study of Afghan military culture is to show that, for all the claims that Afghans are

imbued with religious fanaticism, history shows that they have quickly adapted to each new threat, whether British imperial, Soviet communist, or American / NATO. Well-written, superbly researched. The perfect antidote to the many counterinsurgency books in print.

Rod Paschall, "The 27-Day War," *Military History Quarterly* (Spring 2012): 54-65. Short but comprehensive history of how a small number of CIA operatives and Special Forces personnel "backed by cavalry, cash and airstrikes" defeated the Taliban in October and November 2001. Important background reading for understanding the on-going efforts in Afghanistan.

Counterinsurgency.

Luke Mogelson, "Bad Guys vs. The Worse Guys," *New York Times Magazine* (19 October 2011), 42-49. The author explores the effectiveness of the Pashtun-dominated Afghan Local Police (ALP) in rural Afghanistan. He concludes that "arming and training local Afghans to protect their homes and fight off the Taliban seems to be working." But some non-Pashtun (i.e. Tajik) Afghans see the ALP as "more dangerous than the Taliban," thus highlighting the tribal and ethnic challenges for U.S. forces in assisting Afghan counterinsurgency initiatives. Available on line at <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/23/magazine/bad-guys-vs-worse-guys-in-afghanistan.html?pagewanted=all>

Nachbar, Thomas B. "The Use of Law in Counterinsurgency." The author, an Army Reserve judge advocate and professor of law at the University of Virginia, examines four distinct ways law may be used in counterinsurgency. The thrust of Nachbar's 26-page article is how criminal law may be used as a non-lethal weapon in counterinsurgency and how building criminal legal institutions strengthens the legitimacy of the government. Available on line at http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1967220

Understanding Islam.

Armstrong, Karen. *Islam: A Short History*. (New York: Modern Library, 2002). Although more than ten years old, this well-written and thoughtful introduction to Islam is the best single volume on one of the world's great religions. The book not only recounts the historical development of Islam but places Islamic fundamentalism in historical context.