

## ■ Book Reviews

### **Talking with Victor Charlie: An Interrogator's Story**

By  
Sedgwick D. Tourison Jr.

*Ballantine Books, 1990,  
304 pages, \$4.95 (PB)*

NCOs made significant contributions in establishing intelligence systems to extract information from enemy prisoners and others during the Vietnam War, according to Tourison. He recounts NCO contributions to intelligence collection, through interrogation, and the value of the information to deciding levels of priorities and the order of intel distribution.

NCO interrogation teams developed an

index system (currently referred to as the Enemy Order of Battle) to verify information collected from various suspects and prisoners of war, information which operations planners used to target enemy positions, tunnel complexes and food or weapons caches. Translating thousands of captured documents, interrogation teams identified enemy cadre and verified locations of major enemy units.

The author also raises the issue of the treatment of prisoners. He constantly emphasizes that humane treatment of suspects and prisoners results in obtaining more information than does brutality. This is one of two important lessons NCOs can learn from this book. The other lesson is that the combination of initiative, simplicity and hard work can produce an effective, functional system at any level.

I highly recommend this book and believe it should be required reading for the NCOs in intelligence operations.

SGM Roy T. Akiyama

### **Kiss the Boys Goodbye**

By  
Monika Jensen-Stevenson

*The Penguin Group  
(NAL-Dutton), 1990,  
512 pages, \$21.95 HB,  
\$10.95 (PB)*

If even a small percentage of the information in this book is accurate, hundreds of American soldiers might have been "sold out" in Vietnam to protect covert CIA and military operations in North Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand.

According to the author, the Vietnamese government had a well-documented his-

tory of selling French POWs for cash many years after the French abandoned their military efforts. In 1973, President Nixon promised \$4.5 billion in aid to North Vietnam, Jensen-Stevenson says, and it is her theory that U.S. POWs are still being held as ransom for this unpaid reconstruction aid.

Jensen-Stevenson, who worked for "60 Minutes" as it prepared a 1985 segment of the program pertaining to POWs, claims that the armed services and other government agencies constantly blocked her efforts to prepare that story, including threats of violence and burglary to her home. Her interviews seem to confirm that over 370 U.S. POWs were being held by the Pathet Lao and that none were ever released.

I almost wish the book were fiction. Assuming the accuracy of this book, it should be required reading for all soldiers.

MSG Charles R. Carter

### **On Strategy II: A Critical Analysis of the Gulf War**

By  
COL (Ret.) Harry Summers Jr.

*Dell Publishing, 1992,  
295 pages, \$4.99 (PB)*

The author asks: Will the United States stay prepared to face future military challenges, or revisit past approaches that invited renewed aggression. Analyzing past, present and future military postures, Summers brings past failures and the Gulf war into focus by using Carl von Clausewitz' "remarkable trinity," theory that strength is the result of unity among the people, the government and the military.

Part one looks at the "Vietnam syndrome" in light of this theory and part two reviews the major changes that marked the renaissance of the U.S. fighting force. Part three focuses on how the Gulf war joined the "trinity" to achieve a clear and decisive victory.

If the United States, as the world's only military superpower, is to be responsible for maintaining worldwide peace, the author maintains it cannot return to the past. He places the reader on notice that drastic reductions in our armed forces or poor repositioning of forces and equipment is a step backward. The enemy is studying the steps that were taken to achieve victory in the Gulf war. The United States might not have the same advantages in the future.

Senior NCOs and officers must read this book to compare its content to measures being taken today by our political leaders and ask themselves, "Deja vu?"

MSG Felix L. Santiago

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Here are some guidelines for readers who are interested in reviewing books for this column:

Books should be contemporary, with copyrights in the 1990s.

Keep the length of reviews about

the same size as you see here and in past issues of the Journal.

Include the full title, publisher, price, copyright year, number of pages, whether hardback (HB) or paperback (PB) and the single copy price.

Be critical, but back up your impressions and views with facts.

Stick to subjects for which you have some expertise.

Stay with subjects that should have broad importance or appeal.