FMSO Recommended Flag Grade Reading List for Afghanistan Service

ESSENTIAL BOOKS:

Afghanistan, Louis Dupree, Princeton University Press, 1973, 1978, 1980 or 1984 edition. This is the first book to read on Afghanistan. It is the base-line document for understanding Afghanistan's geography, people and history.

The Fragmentation of Afghanistan: State Formation & Collapse in the International System, Barnett R. Rubin, Yale University Press, 1995 or 2002 edition and Dr. Rubin's Afghanistan's Uncertain Transition from Uncertaincy to Normalcy, Council of Foreign Relations, 2006. The first is the base-line document for understanding the underpinnings of the current political factions and ethnic factionalism, the second updates those themes and broader security-development issues in light of post-2002 international action.

The Soviet-Afghan War: How a Superpower Fought and Lost, The Russian General Staff (translation and commentary by Lester W. Grau and Michael Gress), Kansas University Press, 2001. This is a look at the Operational level of War and how the Soviets utilized aviation, artillery, engineers, medical, maintenance and other branches in their counterinsurgency.

<u>Taliban: Militant Islam, Oil and Fundamentalism in Central Asia</u>, Ahmed Rashid, Yale University Press, 2000. This is the most authoritative look at the pre-OEF Taliban.

The Other Side of the Mountain: Mujahideen Tactics in the Soviet-Afghan War, Ali Ahmed Jalali and Lester W. Grau, Quantico: USMC Study DM-980701, 1998. Ali and Les interviewed over 100 Mujahideen commanders to record their infantry tactics. Most of these tactics are still in use and most of the ambush sites are still being used. Ali later served as the Minister of Interior for Afghanistan. This book is now being translated in to Dari for use at the Afghan National War College.

<u>The Frontier Scouts</u>, Charles Chenevix Trench, Jonathan Cape Publishers, 1985. This a highly readable history of the late British history of what is now Pakistan's Frontier Corps. This history accurately reflects current modalities in terms of the nature of the Afghan-Pakistan tribes and the frontier militia's culture and operations.

<u>Pakistan: Eye of the Storm</u>, Bennett Jones, Yale University Press, 2002. There are lots of histories of Pakistan—they cover the same material. This is very readable and portrays the sense that Pakistanis themselves feel that the 'experiment of nation' is not decided.

A History of the Pakistan Army: War and Insurrections, Brian Cloughley, Oxford University Press, 2002. Great overview of Pakistan's Army.

Descent into Chaos: The United States and the Failure of Nation-Building in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Central Asia by Ahmed Rashid, New York: Viking Press, 2008. This is an angry, bitter book by an angry, bitter man—who has good reasons to be so. Governments and organizations eagerly seek his advice—and then ignore it. He expects the United States to be the bright city on the hill, but we fall short of his expectations. This is a good look at the region and how others view US efforts in the region.

ESSENTIAL ARTICLES/MONOGRAPHS

<u>Pakistan and the War on Terror: Conflicted Goals, Compromised Performance,</u> Ashley J. Tellis, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2008

"Breaking Contact Without Leaving Chaos: the Soviet Withdrawal From Afghanistan" by Lester W. Grau http://fmso.leavenworth.army.mil/documents/Withdrawal.pdf

"The Future of Afghanistan" by Ali A. Jalali: http://www.carlisle.army.mil/usawc/Parameters/06spring/jalali.pdf

"Afghanistan: Regaining Momentum" by Ali A. Jalali: http://www.carlisle.army.mil/usawc/parameters/07winter/jalali.pdf

"The Soviet-Afghan War: A Superpower Mired in the Mountains" by Lester Grau: http://fmso.leavenworth.army.mil/documents/miredinmount.htm

"Fighting 'The Other War'" Counterinsurgency Strategy in Afghanistan, 2003-2005," LTG David W. Barno, *Military Review*, Sept-Oct 2007 and "Combined Task Force Devil in Afghanistan," COL Patrick Donahue and LTC Michael Fenzel, *Military Review*, March-April 2008. Read together, these articles give a good picture of the operational challenges and responses over OEF time.

FMSO.RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR ADDITIONAL READING

The Bear Went Over the Mountain: Soviet Combat Tactics in Afghanistan by Lester Grau, NDU Press, 1996. This is the Soviet infantry tactics/lessons learned book published by the Frunze Academy and then translated with commentary by Lester Grau.

Ghost Wars: The Secret History of the CIA, Afghanistan and Bin Laden, From the Soviet Invasion to September 10, 2001 by Steve Coll, New York: The Penguin Press, 2004. A good history of the US involvement in the region.

The Punishment of Virtue: Inside Afghanistan After the Taliban by Sarah Chayes, New York: The Penguin Press, 2006. One woman's critical look at the successes and failures of US policy in Afghanistan.

Koran, Kolashnikov and Laptop: The Neo-Taliban Insurgency in Afghanistan by Antonio Giustozzi, Columbia, 2007. A leftist scholar's examination of the current Taliban.

Afghanistan's Endless War: State Failure, Regional Politics and the Rise of the Taliban by Larry Goodson, University of Washington Press, 2001. This was published before the attack on America and provides a good recent history of Afghanistan before OEF.

RECOMMENDED ARTICLES FOR ADDITIONAL READING

"Expeditionary Forces: Superior Technology Defeated--The Battle of Maiwand" by Mr. Ali A. Jalali and Mr. Lester W. Grau: http://fmso.leavenworth.army.mil/documents/maiwand/maiwand.htm

"The Afghan War: The Campaign for the Caves: The Battles for Zhawar in the Soviet-Afghan War" by Mr. Ali A. Jalali and Mr. Lester W. Grau: http://fmso.leavenworth.army.mil/documents/zhawar/zhawar.htm

Mountain Combat: Hard to Move, Hard to Shoot, Even Harder to Communicate by Lester Grau, Jason Falivene: http://fmso.leavenworth.army.mil/documents/mountain-commo.pdf