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ELIMINATION OF "HUMAN FACTORS" FROM ANALYSIS

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It is suspected, based on many instances recorded in military history, that the individual and collective performance of the human beings involved is by far the most determinative single factor affecting the outcome of any military conflict. Such was patently true at Marathon; was Dien Bien Phu very different?

Analysis of hardware, organizational structures, and military doctrine may well be far less productive than research into human factors affecting military performance; nevertheless, the former is our task. At least the non-human factors may determine the outcome of conflicts between military forces of equal skill and devotion, if such exist.

To simplify the analytic task, we elect to eliminate from our model of land combat all "human factors". Human elements in the problem are to be considered identical with respect to the following characteristics:

SKILL in performance of function. Note that this quality extends to skill in performance of the command function of decision.

MOTIVATION. Orders, if received, are assumed to be literally obeyed.

PHYSICAL CONDITION. Fatigue, fear, and shock may be recognized as influential, but the thresholds are the same for all human elements.

In addition, two command functions which influence human performance are ignored in the analysis:

LEADERSHIP - which affects motivation of other human elements.

TRAINING - which affects skill of other human elements.

Note that this elimination of human factors applies only to analysis of Capability and Vulnerability. They must definitely be considered in Compatibility analysis of proposed systems.