**Analysis for Southern Campaign**

**SLIDE 1**

**Why do the British decide to attack in the South?**

* By 1779, the British government was under pressure to resolve the war soon. Since the French had entered the war in 1778, the war against the American rebels was no longer the main effort. France, with its large army and navy, was a much greater threat to the entire British Empire, thus other, more valuable portions of the empire had to be protected. This rebellion was placing a great strain on the treasury.
* At this point in the war, the British Government perceived the Southern Colonies as the most loyal to the Empire. Unable to win the war either by defeating the Continental Army in the field or by rallying sufficient Tories to the cause in the Northern Colonies, the War Ministry decided that rallying loyalists in the South had the best chance to win the war in 1779. Advantage to this new strategy:
  + - * + Theoretically, the Southern colonies should be easier to control with a larger amount of loyalists
        + The Loyalists could actually be recruited to fight for the Empire, and thus reduce the demand for expensive British regulars and mercenaries.
        + The Royal Navy would be closer to the Caribbean, a very valuable possession that required constant vigilance against the French.

**Camden Analysis**

**Why does Gates lose the Battle of Camden?**

***[Instructor Note: this analysis provides a compare/contrast of Morgan’s leadership and tactics during the Battle of Cowpens]***

-Gates detached men from his main force to assist Sumter and his militia in a raid on the British Line of Communications which ran from Camden to Charleston. He thus violated the principle of mass by dividing his force in the face of the enemy.

-Gates was anxious to win more glory for himself. He’d always been of the opinion that he, not Washington, should command the Continental Army. He believed a decisive victory in the south would promote his cause.

-Gate’s haste played al large role in the disaster at Camden. The poor condition of his exhausted troops was exacerbated by the ill-prepared meal they’d had the night before. Gate’s was in such a hurry that the meat fed to the troops was undercooked. This caused rampant diarrhea and suffering throughout the ranks.

-Gates’ rashness also contributed to his ill-considered disposition before the battle. He made virtually no attempt to shore up his unproven militia, simply placing them all on the left flank of his battle line. This is where the British struck, routed the militia, then wheeled and attacked the exposed flank of the American regulars.

**How is the Southern Campaign so different from the others**?

* The British did not understand the rivalries that existed in South Carolina before their arrival.
  + The population of along the coast tended to support the revolution, especially around Charleston and Georgetown. Deriving the majority of their income from importing and exporting goods, their profits were reduced by British taxes, duties, and trade restrictions.
  + Low country plantation owners, on the other hand, tended to be loyalists. They profited greatly from the slave-driven economy and were happy with the status quo as a British colony.
  + People in the backcountry region of central and western South Carolina largely supported the revolution. They were independent settlers who westward. The British government opposed this expansion.
* While not quite as many loyalists rallied to the crown as Cornwallis hoped, enough did to give the conflict in the south a quality of civil war, with Tories and rebels fighting each other independent of direct British or Continental Army control. Thus, Guerrilla actions were the main method used by each side to gain and keep control of various localities. The more independent actions of these less disciplined troops led to more atrocities during the Southern Campaign. Revenge became the motivation for many Americans, rebels and Tories alike. Attempting to rally Tories in this condition is problematic at best.

**Slide 2/3**

**Cowpens: Why is Morgan a successful leader?**

* Unlike Gates at Camden, Morgan understood the limitations of his militia and acted to make them an asset rather than a liability in battle. He gave them limited, *obtainable* goals. Fire two volleys, then retreat behind the safety of the Continental line, regroup, and prepare to continue to fight.
* He also issued clear, concise orders, ensuring the militia understood their duties and the regulars understood how the militia withdrawal fit into the overall plan. He spoke confidently to the militia in order to calm their pre-combat jitters. He spoke with fire and enthusiasm to motivate his experienced regulars. He also made sure the regulars understood why the militia were withdrawing to eliminate the possibility of confusion.
* By using the Continentals as a maneuver base and the militia as a ruse *[see “military deception,” FM 3-0 sec. 6-35]* to draw the British in, Morgan emphasized the strength of each unit.

**Slide 4**

**Why do the British ultimately lose the Southern Campaign?**

The British loss in the Southern Campaign can be analyzed utilizing the Principles of Unity of Command, Objective, Offensive, and Mass. An additional factor was the alienation of the civilian population.

* Cornwallis’ decision to move into Virginia is an example of the lack of Unity of Command *[see FM 3-0, sec. 2-48]* that the British displayed throughout the war. Clinton wanted a methodical advance from south to north. Instead, his subordinate, Cornwallis, left South Carolina unsecured, bypassed North Carolina, and went straight to Virginia following the battle of Guilford Court House.
* Clinton failed maintain the principle of war of Objective. *[See FM 3-0, sec 3-35]* The political objective given to him by the government was to rally loyalists in the south. He failed to develop a military strategy to do this. Further, he did not understand the rivalry between the various factions in the South. Rather than rally a homogeneous population, Cornwallis found himself in the middle of a war within a war. Clinton did not *clearly define* his objective.
* Clinton also violated Objective in his allocation of forces. An Objective must be *attainable* by the forces at hand. However, Clinton seemed more focused on Washington’s Army in the north, leaving Cornwallis to deal with the situation in the south and only sending him one quarter of the British forces available in America. He kept the remaining 20,000 in New York City and the north, where he could threaten the main enemy army. This resulted in insufficient forces available to control the garrisons of the south once Cornwallis left for Virginia. However, since the main objective was the occupation and control of the southern states, a course of action could have been to Mass more troops in the south and establish an Economy of Force with his northern forces.
* The British failed to maintain the principle of Offensive. *[See FM 3-0, sec.4-38]* in two ways:
  + - * + Cornwallis gave up the initiative in the south by moving on Yorktown. This enabled Greene to seize, retain and exploit the initiative which eventually resulted in regaining control of South Carolina.
        + Clinton, although having the majority of forces in the north, was content on awaiting for the Americans and French to attack him. However, when Washington did attack, he did so in the time and place of his choosing – Yorktown.
* The British alienated the American population by confiscation and forced purchase of food and supplies. This pushed many Americans to the rebel cause.
  + - * + Outrages perpetrated by the army of occupation such as Tarleton’s massacre at Waxhaws may have changed the direction of the war in the South. Many who might have stayed neutral flocked to the Patriots, and "Tarleton's Quarter!" became a rallying cry for the rebels. The massacre was also directly responsible for the over-mountain men (from what is now Tennessee) forming a volunteer force that utterly destroyed Major Patrick Ferguson's command at Kings Mountain, North Carolina.
        + The British failed to reinstitute civil government in the areas they occupied. Many Americans chafed under the heavy hand of British martial rule.
        + Initially, Clinton proclaimed that Carolinians who surrendered and did not actively seek to harass the British government would have their paroles honored and be left alone. Then, on June 3, 1780, he proclaimed that all prisoners of war could either take up arms against their fellow Americans or be considered traitors to the Crown. Many soldiers, whose pride had already been bruised, reasoned that if they were going to have to take the chance of getting shot again, they might as well fight on the side they wanted to win.
* Finally, luck played a role in the British defeat. The French navy arrived at just the right time to block Cornwallis’s escape from Yorktown through the Chesapeake Bay. If the British Navy had arrived 5 days later, they may been in control of the Bay and repelled the French instead of the reverse occuring.