

8 The Role of the Singapore Armed Forces in Forging National Values, Image, and Identity

Col. Fred Wel-Shi Tan,
Singapore Armed Forces
Senior Lt. Col. Psalm B. C. Lew,
Singapore Armed Forces

Singapore espouses official national values and inculcates them into their population during mandatory national service.

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What the United States and the Region Can Do

Gustavo R. Coronel

The author describes how Venezuela ended up as a failed state and provides an analysis of the potential role the United States and the rest of the countries in the region can play in restoring democracy and stability to the country.



About the Cover: A U.S. Air Force tactical air control party member (*right*) points at a target in the field to a U.S. Air Force combat controller while participating in close air support training 1 May 2014 during Emerald Warrior 2014 at Hurlburt Field Air Force Base, Florida. (Photo by Senior Airman Colville McFee, U.S. Air Force)

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Officer Education and Critical Thought

**1st Lt. James Tollefson,
Alaska Army National Guard**

The author argues for inculcating the habits of humble, multilogical critical thought that will enable today's platoon leaders to be tomorrow's adaptive battalion commanders. (2016 DePuy Writing Contest, 3rd Place)

96 **How to Hinder Unit Readiness**

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Sara VanderClute

The wife of a retired serviceman discusses leadership.

REVIEW ESSAY

111 Enhanced Interrogation

Inside the Minds and Motives of the Islamic Terrorists Trying to Destroy America

John G. Breen, PhD

The author critiques a book by James E. Mitchell and Bill Harlow that discusses enhanced interrogation techniques, their effectiveness, and their morality, from the viewpoint of two Central Intelligence Agency insiders.

Next page: Sniper Spc. James Wanser keeps watch in the early morning hours of 8 September 2011 while his battle buddy catches a few precious minutes of sleep in Paktika Province, Afghanistan. (Photo by Spc. Ken Scar, U.S. Army)

Poem of a Soldier

By 2nd Lt. George Bruner, U.S. Army

*You praise the man I was, and curse the man I am.
Depending on which God you love, who I will be may be damned.
Yet still I'll sell my soul for you, I'll save us all from our worst selves,
I know no other love than this, I fear no other hell.*

*I am what I am, 'cause I was made to be.
I raise the mountains, bring them down, and push the seven seas.
I reap the grapes of wrath, I am the hand that feeds,
I am the brimstone falling from the angel wings.*

*I damn the damned, and bless the weak.
For the lame walk, and for the mute speak.
The poor and oppressed find their rest in me,
I break the chains and bring forth the free.*

*The destroyer of worlds, I am become of death.
I am enveloping nights, approaching bayonets.
I am the darkest valley where the sword is whet,
the shadow of death is my silhouette.*

*I was forged in a fire lit long ago.
Born of a crucible not my own.
Yet by this birthright in man am I mold,
I am strength multiplied by a thousand fold.*

*I am the photos of loved ones, now nothing but memories.
I am folded flags, torn, tattered and history.
Yet it is I who held high these in Pyrrhic victory,
I am the Idea that we've died for, for all of eternity.*

*I am the scorching heat, I am the bitter cold.
I am the broken sleep that shakes your soul.
I am the naive youth, and the fearful old,
I am the hell you pray you'll never know.*

*I am a soldier, and no one asked me to be.
I raised my right hand and said "God, send me!"
I am the man that the boy I was wanted to be,
The incarnate nightmare of my enemies' dreams.*

*I am the comforting safety we've known at home.
I am the cogs of wars we hope we won't.
Pray you never need me, yet when you do,
I am also the fear which caused you to.*

*I am the cherubim, and original sin.
I rule the fallen world, and the broken men.
From the depths of the waters to the roaring winds,
I am new beginnings and imminent ends.*

