



The warrior spirit: the renewal of the social role of the army 2/3

BRENNUS 4.0

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Engagement opérationnel

The challenges of today and tomorrow

If certain major phenomena are destined to remain so, like the impact of technology, others more disruptive... the forefront, at least for the next decade. ir. Thus, the return of high-intensity combat raises questions about the available warrior capital among the younger generation, and more broadly on national resilience.

The course of high-intensity combat

The immediate challenge for the Army's moral forces lies in the preparation for a high-intensity confrontation and operative levels that will require overcoming the two psychological milestones: intensity and repetition.

The resurgence of power politics on the international stage and the Ukrainian conflict demonstrate the topicality of this issue. concern. The warlike capital described above provides certainly a base. Nevertheless, the testimony of the wounded from the Levantine theatre, caught under mortar fire, harassed by booby-trapped drones or assaulted by armoured vehicles, is a testimony to the fact that the wounded are still alive and kicking. The testimony of the wounded in the Levantine theatre, caught under mortar fire, harassed by booby-trapped drones or assaulted by armoured vehicles, suggests an initial psychological milestone to be overcome at a time when the balance of power is reversed and the loss of ascendancy is collectively materialised. This situation makes it necessary to integrate asymmetry into mental schemas from the very beginning of training, i.e. in concrete terms, to train until the end of the training. This situation requires the integration of asymmetry into mental patterns from the training stage, i.e. training up to the operational level to be fought and won without air superiority, with communications paralysed by electronic warfare or with more than 30% of the unit destroyed. The second psychological course will undoubtedly be that of rehearsal. Addressing his army of Egypt in 1801, Napoleon formulated it as follows: "If bravery is the first quality of the soldier, constancy is the second" [14]. 14] This bravery is

indeed very often present at the first assault because it is a personal test of truth. But how can it be assured at these second, tenth, fiftieth? According to Ardant du Picq, solidarity and trust have become the primary springs[15] for overcoming fear. Indeed, technology induces an increasing distance between soldiers of the same unit on the battlefield. The result is a dilution of the physical bond that united the troop in ancient combat. This bond must therefore persist at least morally through trust and solidarity that can be anticipated in peacetime. Now this deconcentration of the combat is destined to continue[16]. 16] The reflection on the SCORPION doctrine, which will become the model of high intensity combat for the Army in the coming decade, is therefore inseparable from the reflection on the link that unites the combatants.

The "SCORPION soldier material" »

The response to such a tactical challenge requires taking into account... the sociological realities of the youth who provide the social source first fighter of the Nation, what Marshal Lyautey calls "the soldier matter"[17]. Some of its frailties call for counter-long-term measures, to which the conjuncture lends itself well.

In an army model army model, it's true that some trends in of the "Generation Y"[18] born between the 1980s and mid-1990s, consist of real vulnerabilities: individualism, dissociation, need for immediacy. The findings in countries with similar societal differences with the France call for counter-long-term measures. At By 2018, 71% of Americans aged 17 to 24 would not be fit to serve in the armed forces[19]. It is thus permitted to ask how much of the shock would come from a conflict of high intensity. If the next generation, that of the 'millennials', is naturally part of a certain continuity, it does not, however, seem alien to the warrior spirit. First of all, it grew up in a security context marked by an inflection of the angelic illusions of "the end of history", especially after the attacks on national territory in 2015 [20]. 20] It is this generation, in search of meaning, that has fuelled the rise in power of the land-based operational force. To go further, some sociological studies undertaken in the wake of the terrorist attacks have pointed to the lack of a framework in society to respond to the absolute need[21] of marginalized and violent youth, which is significant in the French demographic [22]. 22] This represents a fertile breeding ground for radicalization and in particular jihadist terrorism, which is not countered by moderating discourse. 23] The question of the recovery of the radicalized appears to be unanswered for the time being. On the other hand, a strong counter-model, such as the warrior spirit that is likely to operate in mentalities before the changeover, seems appropriate. 24] In sum, these observations underline the importance for the army to participate in forging already among the young the state of mind that will allow them to be, if not at peace, at least victorious tomorrow.

The need for a global warrior

More broadly, issues related to cohesion and the national resilience show that the development of the warrior spirit in the army has a strategic dimension. strategic dimension.

Indeed, the paradox of the popularity of the unknown soldier [25] illustrates a grave danger. On the one hand, the image of armies benefiting of an unprecedented coastline[26] on the other, the warrior phenomenon appears to be much more alien to public opinion than in the XX century. The 1918 centenary celebrations rounded off a successful year. This opposition is illustrated by the following example. The celebration of peace, which he is in no way intended to call into question on such a date, leaves little room for the honouring of victories and the Heroic courage. This distancing of the warrior fact induces at least three risks. The first

is that public opinion is no longer willing to support the outbreak of war... whose blood price it does not measure[27]. The second is the weakening of national immune defences[28] at the lack of confrontation with a clear threat for more than several decades. As a share of gross domestic product, the effort of defence between 1980 and 2014 was almost halved. This risk is all the more serious at a time when the non-military are targeted by the comprehensive approach of the Russian power[29] or Chinese. Thirdly, this distancing contributes to the forgetting of the price paid by the previous generations to build the nation, when its cohesion is already being put to the test[30]. In such a context, successes on battlefields may not materialize into victories[31]. The social dimension of the warrior spirit reveals itself... and therefore consubstantial to its tactical essence.

At this stage, three decisive factors for capitalizing the deposits of warrior spirit maintained by the army:

- preparing the military for a hardening of conflicts... at the tactical and operational levels;
- adapting to the strengths and weaknesses of the generation to coming generation;
- fit into an overall perspective of cohesion, and of national resilience.

Beyond this observation, the question of the implementation of the work.

[14] Napoleon BONAPARTE, "Proclamation at the last armée d'Orient, Paris, 1er ventôse year IX (February 20, 1801)" in Jacques-Olivier BOUDON presents War speech, Napoleon-Leon Bonaparte Paris, Editions Pierre de Taillac, 2011, p. 81.

[15] Charles ARDANT DU PICQ, op. cit., p. 53-54.

[16] Guy HUBIN provides a radical vision of this: «The systems [Tactics] future will relegate the one-to-one relationship to the no-calf from the execution cell. The one-This will have to withstand the insulation in a perfectly organized and well-known ensemble, but whose speakers will remain at time "t" in a total anonymity ". in Guy HUBIN, Tactical Perspectives Paris, Editions Economica, 2003, p. 75.

[17] Marshal LYAUTEY, The Social Role of the Officer Paris, Editions Bartillat, 2003, p. 54.

[18] For an in-depth analysis, in particular of the impact of the digital, see Monique DAGNAUD, Generation Y. The youth and social networks from derision to subversion., Paris, Editions Les Presses de Sciences Po, coll. "New Dicebats", 2011.

[19] For reasons of overweight, level of education, and lack of education, it is not possible to have a child who is overweight, criminal record or drug use, in the past, in the present or in the future. Report «Unhealthy and unprepared - National security depends on promoting healthy lifestyles from an early age» from Council for a Strong America, Mission Readiness, October 2018, p. 4.

[20] «In the space of three years, the vision of the French "youth"... (15-24 years old) interviewed by the European Commission in France has made significant progress on the threat of terrorism. So that in 2013, young people considered unemployment and the situation economic as the "most important problems ..." in 2016, terrorism will be a major threat to France.... is now cited by almost half of the young people (43%, compared to 0% citations in 2013), just behind unemployment (46% of the population). %). "in Defense Statistical Yearbook. Analysis & references Edition 2017, p. 12.

[21] «The violence of IA... could be characterized by this that Edmund Burke called "the sublime"... a passionate quest born for the "delicious terror", the sense of power, of the destitute, the search for the absolute, the inexpressible..." in Scott ATRAN, The Islamic State is a revolution Paris, Editions Les Liens qui Libèrent, 2016, p. 26.

[22] A statistical study conducted by two CNRS on nearly 7,000 high school students in the second year of secondary school, from all over the world, social and cultural backgrounds, and of all faiths related to the shows that 34% of them find "acceptable in some cases to take part in violent action to defend one's ideas" in Olivier GALLAND and Anne MUXEL, The ten radical change. Survey of high school students Paris, Editions Puf, 2018, p. 428.

[23] «To combat IA, [Western powers] are advancing one hundred so of the wobbly solutions... [such as] the promotion of a moderate Islam so appealing to thirsty young people... of adventure, glory, ideals and importance as the eternal promise of shopping malls.", in Scott ATRAN, op. cit. p. 38.

[24] «History teaches us that most societies cultivate of the sacred values for which their peoples are held sacred. ...ready to fight... Our

research suggests she's under for those who join EI and for many of the people who are Kurds [...], the search for comfort and safety does not seem to be enough to fill their lives." Scott ATRAN, op.cit. p. 90-91.

25] Bénédicte CHERON, The unsung soldier. The French and their armies: state of play Paris, Editions Armand Colin, 2018. 26] 84% of the French people surveyed stated that they have a good image of their armies in 2017, in DICOD, key figures of the Defence 2018. 27] After the attacks in Paris in 2015, a survey among the American population showed that 60% supported an in their country on the ground in Syria, while 62% replied that they had been that she was not prepared to participate personally, in David Barno and Nora Bensahel, The Deepest Obligation of Citizenship: Looking Beyond the Warrior Caste, 2018, War on the rocks. [28] Defence and National Security Strategic Review 2017 about areas of vital importance, "part of them remains inadequately protected and sensitive to the risks. sée", op. cit. art. 176, p. 57.

29] These two countries are directly cited in J.-B. Jeangène Vilmer, A. Escorcia, M. Guillaume, J. Herrera, The Manipulations information: a challenge for our democracies, report of the Centre for Analysis, Forecasting and Strategy (CAPS) of the department of Europe and Foreign Affairs and the Institute of strategic research at the Department's Military School (IRSEM) des Armées, Paris, August 2018.

[30] «National cohesion and resilience ... constitute the the basis of our freedom of action", in Strategic Review of defence and national security 2017, p. 56.

31] In the context of an overall strategy, the link is not im-mediating between tactical successes and strategic victories. This general truth is more relevant than ever, as in tee-moans Major General Bruno GUIBERT, "In the light Barkhane" in Le Casoar No. 231, October 2018, p. 41.

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