



Project O'Bannon

Combating Terrorism

Information Paper



Introduction. On 17-18 December 2001, Wargaming Division, Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory (MCWL), in cooperation with the Office of the Secretary of Defense/Net Assessment (OSD/NA), will conduct the first in a series of *Project O'Bannon* events. *Project O'Bannon* is designed to examine the scope and components of an extended global campaign against international terrorism, with particular attention to the potential contributions of military, and especially Marine Corps capabilities. The events of 11 September 2001 have refocused the attention of every American and are the driving force behind *Project O'Bannon*. The terrorist attacks were the opening salvo in the first world war of the 21st Century – a global war against terrorism. This campaign will require an examination of the structure, dynamics, and vulnerabilities of key infrastructure networks. It will require the US to develop new and integrated approaches to warfare, as well as a new vocabulary. Victory will demand that the US integrate a number of broad and unconventional civilian and military capabilities.

Project O'Bannon is named for Lieutenant Presley O'Bannon, US Marine Corps, who in the early years of the 19th century played a visible role in the defeat of the Barbary Pirates. Moreover, it is shaped by the historical analogue between the global war against piracy in the 18th and 19th centuries and the global war against terrorism. As Paul Hefheinz notes, in both cases the protagonist used the "...threat of anti-social violence to intimidate law-abiding people. They attacked the highly visible commercial interests of powerful states... And they used safe havens to plot their attacks and train their forces for battle." (*Wall Street Journal* [New York], 2 October 2001). There are many contemporary issues, including the effective use of military force that may have precedence in past efforts to combat piracy. "The lesson for modern times is that it took a major, international effort to root out piracy whenever it flourished."

Project O'Bannon is a logical continuation of two ongoing Marine Corps Wargaming Division programs - *Project Ellis* and the Revolution in Military Affairs (RMA) Program.

Project Ellis is named for Major Pete Ellis, who perceived a major shift in the strategic landscape after World War I. He correctly identified Japan as a likely enemy and was instrumental in the development of the amphibious capabilities that served as the foundation for the Pacific island-hopping campaign during World War II. Similarly, *Project Ellis* explores events in the strategic landscape that could result in major changes in U.S. national and military strategies that in turn could necessitate changes in the direction of U.S. military operational concepts.

The RMA Wargaming Program explores potentially revolutionary changes in the character and conduct of warfare that could be enabled by integrating emerging

technologies with innovative organizational and operational concepts. The Office of the Secretary of Defense, Net Assessment (OSD/NA), co-sponsors the program.

Project O'Bannon Objectives

- To identify and understand the strategic and policy framework for the campaign against global terrorism as shaped by the Department of State (DOS) and the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD).
- To assess the nature, dynamics, and vulnerabilities of global terrorist networks.
- To explore the role of military force, particularly Marine Corps capabilities, against terrorist networks.
- To define the operational and tactical dimensions of a campaign against global terrorism.
- To devise operational and tactical concepts for combating global terrorism.
- To identify distinctive capabilities and organizational innovations that may be needed to combat global terrorism.

Each component of *Project O'Bannon* will have its own more specific “sub-objectives.”

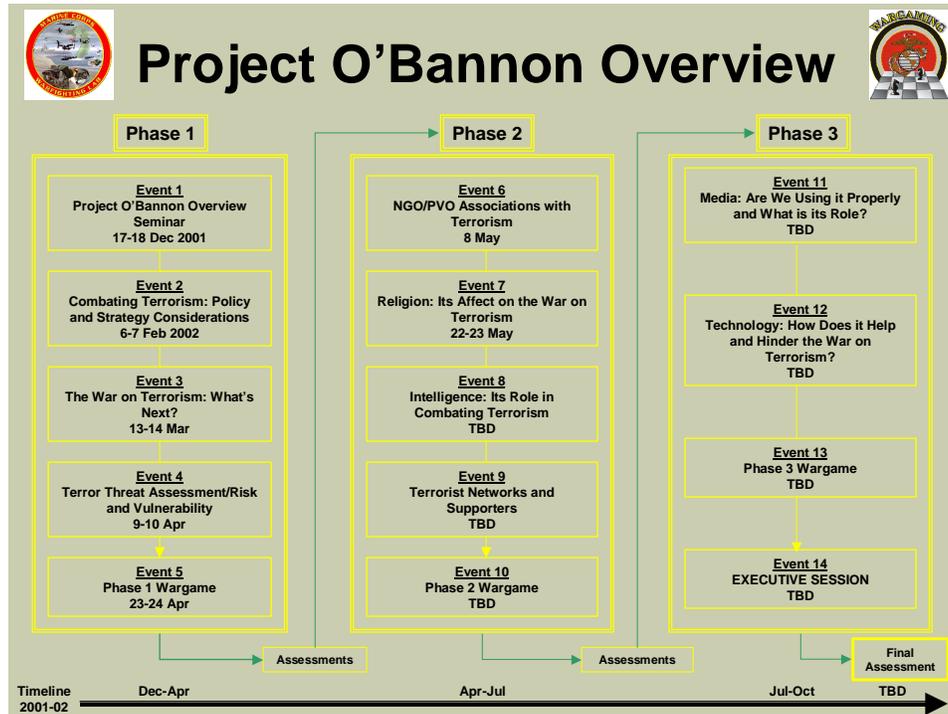
Project O'Bannon Concept. *Project O'Bannon* will be an 8 – 9 month effort. It will consist of a series of war games, seminars, workshops, cultural intelligence seminars, and related activities. These events will constitute a comprehensive effort to develop an integrated approach to a long-term campaign against global terrorism. The project will not “chase events,” but will rather seek to stay “ahead of the bow-wave.” The bottom line will be the emphasis placed on the role and application of military force, especially Marine Corps capabilities. *Project O'Bannon* will follow the RMA approach of integrating operational concepts, organizational innovations, and appropriate advanced technologies to achieve revolutionary changes in the nature of warfare. Finally, a rapid assessment with specific action recommendations will follow each event, with an overall assessment at the conclusion of the program.

Integrated Issues. There are a number of past Wargaming Division efforts that are directly related to *Project O'Bannon*, and the results of which can inform the effort. These include:

- Computer Network Attacks (CNA) against critical infrastructures; e.g., financial, transportation, and electric power.
- Non-Lethal Weapons (NLW)
- Cultural Intelligence.
- Chemical and Biological Warfare.
 - Incident Response.
 - Military Support to Civil Authority.
 - Use in Conventional Warfare.
- Nuclear Counter-Proliferation.
- Marine Corps Organizational Innovations:
 - Chemical and Biological Initial Response Force (CBIRF).
 - Company L, Marine Support Battalion.

- Anti-terrorism Brigade: 4th MEB (AT).
- Expeditionary Deployment / Operations (Sea Wolf).
- Strategic Surprise/Futures (*Project Ellis*).

Project O'Bannon Overview



Event One: Overview Seminar

The purpose of the Overview Seminar is to provide a general introduction to the global counter terrorism problem, and to broadly consider the key areas of concern that will be considered in more detail in subsequent events. Specific objectives and key topics for the overview seminar can be seen in the diagram above.

Key Topics

- The history, definition, and nature of terrorism: analogies.
- An overview of religion and terrorism.
- Networks.
- Organizational innovations.
- Current and future military roles, mission, and capabilities in counter-terrorism operations.

Administrative Information

- **Location / Directions / Parking.** The workshop will be held at Liversedge Hall (the BOQ) at the Marine Corps Combat Development Center, Quantico, VA. See the attached map.
- **Hotels.** See listings with map. It is recommended that individuals make their own reservations as soon as possible.
- **Security Classification.** All printed materials and all material entered on the computers will be UNCLASSIFIED. The computer network is not cleared for classified information.
- **TAD Funding.** All participants are to provide their own funding for this seminar.
- **Conference Fee.** \$30.00.
- **Attire.** Uniform of the Day for military and business attire for civilians.
- **Communications Support / Messages.** 703-784-3276.
- **Workshop Schedule.** The workshop will run from 0800 to 1700 daily. A detailed schedule will be forthcoming along with other workshop read-ahead materials approximately one week prior to the event.
- **Contact Information**

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