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SUICIDE

The Destruction of America's Army

By

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DEDICATION

During one of the many "final phases" of researching this book since 1992, a publisher asked me, "Who are you writing this for?" He was of course interested in the market potential and revenue generating calculations of an arcane subject obtuse to many - military morality. Although every author seems to know the answer to that question intuitively, it proves not to be an easy question to answer. Nor is it safe to assume that everyone or anyone else will readily appreciate the answer except in marketing terms. Upon reflection this work is not written for - nor dedicated solely to - the military, or veterans, nor any other neatly quantifiable market segment of the population.

First and foremost, it is dedicated to the hallowed memory of America's military personnel killed, wounded, or missing in action against hostile and natural forces since 1776; totaling some 2,619,317 souls before the ongoing wars - and counting.

Second, it is dedicated to the elite 150 thousand or so "trigger-pullers" serving today in the combat arms - infantry, artillery, armor, special operations, aviation, and naval warfare - that are currently sacrificing and suffering to defend the American Republic and Constitution.

Third, it is dedicated to America's 8 million plus living military veterans and the 40,500,000 service-members of all ranks who have served on active during wartime since the Battle of Lexington - especially those far too many thousands seriously disabled in the line of duty.

Fourth, it is dedicated to all of the fathers, mothers, spouses, sisters, children and sweethearts of America who currently entrust their fathers, brothers, sons, and loved ones to the Armed Forces; an estimated extended family of some 10 million.

Fifth, it is dedicated to the many millions of citizens and residents of the United States who honestly expect America's Army to protect and defend the Constitution, with full and true faith.

Finally, it is dedicated to those skeptically realistic Americans of all races, sexes, and nationalities, who know the critical difference between a combat-ready soldier, airman, sailor, or marine and a uniformed service-member or civilian, serving in a non-combat function; that may be a few enlightened - but critical - hundreds of thousands.

Jack A. Kingston

FOREWORD

Dr. Ernest F. Fisher, Jr., Ph.D., Colonel (AUS, Ret'd)
Former Senior Historian,
U.S. Army Institute for Military History



When Jack and I first met in 1996, we experienced that almost instantaneous synergy of American military compatriots that I am proud to say has been a wonderful factor in my life and career.

In fact, at the time, Jack had contacted me to express his praise and admiration for my book - **Guardians of the Republic** - and my contributions to other works. Having served as an enlisted infantryman as well as a field-grade officer, Jack intuitively identified with my *central concept* - that our military non-commissioned officers and common infantry soldiers have historically been the true Guardians of our Republic.

Although I had the opportunity to discuss the implications of his research and analysis with him before actually reading it, I must say that the end result is nothing short of astonishing.

In my professional opinion as a historian - Colonel Kingston Jack has demonstrated an incredibly sensitive and far-reaching appreciation for the role of historical events and trends affecting the heart and soul of America.

Furthermore, from my point of view as a combat infantryman - to his extensive panorama of national security - Colonel Kingston has applied a truly superior military intuition and compiled a readable, intense, comprehensive and intricate assessment of the full range of problems confronting our Armed Forces today, in what appears to be methodical case of institutional SUICIDE.

INTRODUCTION

Colonel Jack Pryor, (USA, Retired)
Former President,
U.S. Army Management and Engineering College

The background to this seminal work by Colonel Kingston is extensive and compelling. It is both - experiential and intuitive; yet academic and deliberative, rendered at once with professional detachment, yet impassioned concern. In my opinion, the quality of his logic, prose, conclusions and recommendations are remarkable. But, most importantly it is a courageous work, by a serious soldier.

That is so because, today most of America's Officer Corps are willing to face bullets, but not ballots; so too, many citizens are more wont to accommodate petty thieves or thugs, than honor and civic accountability; this at a time when our elected leaders are more capable of Orwellian double-speak and vacillation, than of implementing justice or self-discipline. In contrast and despite the consequences, Jack has consistently espoused the truth in his role as a congressional candidate, foundation chairman, national security expert, commentator, and citizen soldier.

Jack Kingston's perspective reflects his multi-faceted credentials; spanning several fields of endeavor in academics, politics, and the military. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Studies, and an MBA in Aviation Management, both with distinction, from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, as well as, a Master of Arts in National Security from Georgetown University. A Colonel selectee - he is also a Commandant's List Graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College, and the Army War College, Class of 1994.

To be sure, my analysis is from the perspective of an intimate friendship since Jack served as my Deputy Chief of Staff in Panama during Operation Promote Liberty. However, that friendship does not mitigate my professional objectivity and is yet another measure of Jack's credibility. In fact, it was the "lucky" Lieutenant Colonel's oak leaves, and Colonel's eagles of Colonel Roger Donlon that will have been pinned to Jack's uniform upon his most recent promotions. As the heroic Commander of a Green Beret A-Team, Roger Donlon was the first Medal of Honor recipient in the Vietnam War, and is one of the most respected combat soldiers of the Armed Forces alive today.

While others were attacking our Armed Forces in the streets, during that war, Kingston enlisted in the Infantry in 1969; he then volunteered for duty in Vietnam, no less than four times, but was

instead sent to Europe. Nonetheless, despite numerous Reductions-In-Force (RIF), during the period from 1969 to 1983, he rose from Infantry Private to Major, and commanded Green Beret, Armor and Aero-Scout operations in the Regular Army while having been decorated for his role in developing the Air Land Battle concept and Army Aviation as a combat branch.

Subsequently, as a reserve officer, he has served as Chief, Unconventional Warfare, Special Operations Command Europe; as Assistant J-3 Air Operations, SOCCENT, in the Middle East; as Deputy Chief of Staff, US-MSG in Panama; as Deputy Chief of US Military Teams in Slovakia and Estonia; and as, Chief, J-3 Operations for US Forces, Korea. In 1995, Colonel Kingston was nominated by-name for the Presidential Selected Reserve Call-Up for duty in Bosnia as the Deputy Chief of the Joint Military Commission, Task Force Eagle, at Tuzla Air Base in Bosnia. He was also nominated and assigned to the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as a Strategic Planner (IMA) and attached to the US Military Academy, at West Point as Deputy Director, for Operations, Plans and Security.

Since 1980 Kingston has authored, or edited, a multitude of innovative articles and reports recommending substantive reforms and futuristic initiatives with regard to national defense, including: The Middle East - Geopolitical Fault Line, Air Land Battle 2000, The Impact of Television in Vietnam, The Eagle and the Sphinx - Selected Covert Actions Prior to WWII, and, Back to the Future - Restructuring U.S. War-Fighting Capability to 2020 AD.

In early 1984, he entered politics, as a candidate for the U.S. Congress, with the support of Speaker Newt Gingrich, and President Ronald W. Reagan to fight for the Armed Forces on Capitol Hill. He has advised numerous private and government agencies including Time-Life Books, and was the senior national security consultant for the International Planning and Analysis Center.

As founder and Chairman of the National Security Advisory Board and the Spirit of America Foundation, Jack Kingston has also chaired numerous congressional briefings (which highlighted critical defense issues, peacekeeping operations and regional conflict scenarios), conducted several tours of the Balkan war zone, and contributed to the Secretary of Defense's Commission on Roles and Missions of the Armed Forces.

Kingston's frequent media appearances as a national security expert include CNN's Crisis in the Gulf; CNN's Prime Time News with Wolf Blitzer; Channel Seven Prime Time News; the Aviation Digest; the Voice of America; WNTR Battle-Line Radio; Radio Liberty & Radio Free Europe, Switzerland's largest Sunday new magazine; Europe's dynamic magazine "NEWS" and Vienna's leading newspaper "Neue Kronen"; Croatian and Slovenian national television, radio and newspapers, as well as, Israel's military journal, Born in Battle.

For all of these reasons, the Heritage Foundation has identified him as a public policy expert in Defense, National

Security and Domestic Crime Issues, since 1987. Finally, he is listed in the 1995 Yearbook of Experts, Authorities and Spokespersons - Washington's on-line encyclopedia of authoritative sources.

Ultimately, whether or not one agrees with Colonel Kingston's controversial central premise, or his perspectives, conclusions, and recommendations, it would be difficult to establish any authoritative alternatives without at least reading this book. From either an academic, or a devil's advocate point of view, and whether or not one is inclined to accept any critical view of America's Armed Forces whatsoever, the analysis and critical assessments presented by Colonel Kingston, must at least be considered, even if ultimately rejected. To do less - is to accept without reflection the prevailing politicized version of history and sign-on to the bureaucratic interpretation of the future by default - thereby risking being forever constrained, by the politically correct limits of behavior - in the present.

My greatest concern is based on my own experience in reconciling Jack's observations and analysis of the root causes of suicides in the military, since 1990. Furthermore, my interest and concern were elevated substantially in early 1995 when Jack and I teamed up and attempted to develop support through the professional defense consultant and contractor community for a project to reduce suicides and homicides in the military. I was personally shocked by the awareness that the contractors and military officers we approached acknowledged the gravity of the problem, but did not want to get involved in such a controversial project for fear of a back-lash, or negative political reaction, by the senior political and military leadership of the Armed Forces.

Frankly, if there is to be no direct challenge to the inevitability of military suicides, and to every single aspect of those suicides, then unacceptable rates of suicide in the Armed Forces will be inevitable. The same holds true for military homicides, fraggings and the "unresolved deaths" component of this ongoing military tragedy.

When all the other issues Jack has raised are factored in; the dysfunctions in the elements of combat power, the immorality cancer and domestic crime, the governmental abuse of authority and fraud, the risky "affirmative" and "equality" programs involving race, homosexuality, women, illegal immigrants, non-citizens and former communists - the complex nature of the problem of national defense takes on new meaning. Furthermore, when any reasonable citizen considers these problems in conjunction with the ongoing scandals in the military, Congress and the White House, as well as, the general breakdown in the concept of honor in America, this book sends both a critically needed message, and provides a road-map of viable recommendations to the American electorate, the National Command Authority and the national political leadership.

Ultimately, if Colonel Kingston is only half right in his

assessments, this work may contribute significantly to protecting America's soldiers by reducing the tragic incidence of suicides, murders and unresolved deaths in the military; which may prove to be a critical aspect in the future combat reliability of the core of the Armed Forces. America's Army, as the core of our Nation, has always been the key to the stability, the well-being, and the survival of our Constitutional Republic. Colonel Kingston's principal assertion is that if the Army fails...the Republic will fall...and the evidence he has developed in this book clearly indicates that the Army is in big trouble.

PROLOGUE

With the Foreword and Introduction of my colleagues as the backdrop to my frame of reference, the scope of this work is most definitely not limited to my own personal feelings, military career, or goals. Rather, it was influenced and developed across the full panorama of America's Armed Forces; the formal military educational system, the civilian academic system, operations with forward deployed joint and coalition forces as well as my experiences in professional politics, and the media, as a national security consultant. Additionally, the scope of SUICIDE is contemporary with regard to the specific concerns that pose the greatest immediate danger to the continued existence of our Republic, as well as, the sanctity of the Constitution.

My primary purpose is to rescue America's Armed Forces from further degradation and destruction, by addressing the root causes of the apparent demoralization of America's fighting man, as opposed to chasing the symptoms or the political spin. No more...and no less.

There are three elements to this objective:

- First, to contribute to the rebuilding of the essence of America's national combat power;**
- Second, to suggest methods for restructuring America's War-Fighting capability;**
- Third, to better prepare America for war, against any foe, foreign or domestic.**

This effort is supported by intensive and eclectic research. But, it is principally guided by my own personal observations and those of people that I know and trust. In other words, it is intended to be scholarly, but not simply academic; it does not rely on the mere reading of books and is not thereby derivative solely of the observations of conclusions of strangers, or self-proclaimed experts. In that regard, my work is willfully not exclusively scholastic.

Instead, I have relied most heavily on those faculties each American citizen should trust and value most; my own eyes, ears, experience and God-given judgment, however heretical that may at first seem.

As my dear friend and mentor, Colonel George Coutoumanos (USA, Retired) once warned, "Unless we're careful to cling to our common senses, we're always at risk of being only as smart as the last book that we have read."

To which I might yet add a somewhat cynical note from an unknown savant, "The only thing new in the world, is the book you haven't read yet."

Accordingly, the attendant bibliography spans the scope and depth of my research in an attempt to preclude a mere echoing of

a partisan or party-line viewpoint, or the avoidance of an unpopular, minority opinion. Nor is my approach intended to be intentionally unconventional, to the exclusion of logic, law, or culture.

Furthermore, this effort is not intended to be an exhaustive and detailed analysis of each and every subject or incident referred to. In that regard also, it specifically does not include any classified documents, information or references, nor does it rely on security classified resources, or expose ongoing intelligence operations and procedures. Rather, it is intended as a framework for new perspectives in evaluating America's armed forces vis-à-vis the grass roots of the Army, its sacred purpose, and potential threats to its published mission.

In that regard, the context of this effort is similar to the 1981 non-fiction work entitled, "**Self-Destruction**," anonymously written under the pseudonym *Cincinnatus*. That book was a commendable and desperately-needed critical analysis that broached the ugly truths of immoral military leadership and its resultant demoralization of America's Army, during the Post-Vietnam Era. My sincere respects go out to the author, an insightful fellow soldier, who remains as yet an unknown scribe. However, unlike that book and that author (reputed to have been a field grade graduate of the Command and General Staff College assigned to the Pentagon) - this work, and authorship, will not be rendered as "anonymous," because true courage, and HONOR, abhor irresponsibility and eschew anonymity.

Accordingly, the context of "**SUICIDE: the Destruction of America's Army**" is that responsible leadership in national service, and not anonymity, is the very best tradition of America's Army. To support that premise and to explore the foregoing hypothesis that - *America's Army is on the path to destruction from within by the cumulative suicides of both the individual troops and the institution itself* - necessitates a review of the very concepts that form the Army; *it's history, mythology, legends, and current constitution*. That demands a definition of *the basic elements of national combat power* - from the foxhole and cockpit to the White House - all in conjunction with, *the State of The Union*.

The integrity of *American society and government vis-à-vis their relationship to the Army* (as an oft reputed, but logically disputed microcosm thereof) are also important in determining *the calculated risks and accelerating factors* involved in the unrealistic military criteria of *zero tolerance, race, gender, sex, homosexuality, hazing and suicides*. An honest appraisal of those issues must include the counter-intuitive, inhuman and debilitating concept of "*breaking a man down to rebuild the WHOLE MAN*" - as compared to how the most fundamental and vital military building blocks - the *Honor System* and *Leadership by Example* - are actually manifested in military operations. Theory versus practice in "the real world" if you will.

Finally, the synergy of these elements should quantify the

role of *fidelity* and *traditional role models* as fundamental to the *essence of national combat power*, while projecting the parameters of the *ongoing Wars of Occupation in Iraq and Afghanistan* versus the *ideological Global War on Terror*, and specifying recommendations for *Restructuring America's War-Fighting Capability*. Ultimately, pointing the way to - *revitalizing America's demoralized Army - as well as - America.*

Jack Kingston
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